

THE SYAMANTAKA GEM

To the women of Dwarka, Krishna is the most coveted jewel, the husband they yearn for. For most of the men, the Syamantaka, the sun-god's shining gem, is the most sought-after prize. This is hardly surprising – it is known to regularly bestow a hoard of solid gold on their Prince Satrajit. When the gem goes missing, suspicion falls on Krishna. He must prove his innocence, but danger and upheaval threaten at every turn.

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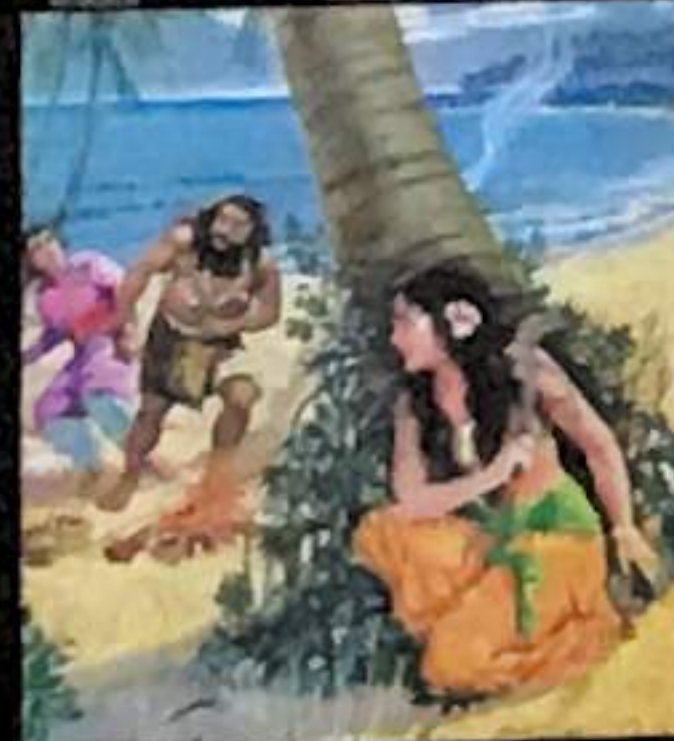
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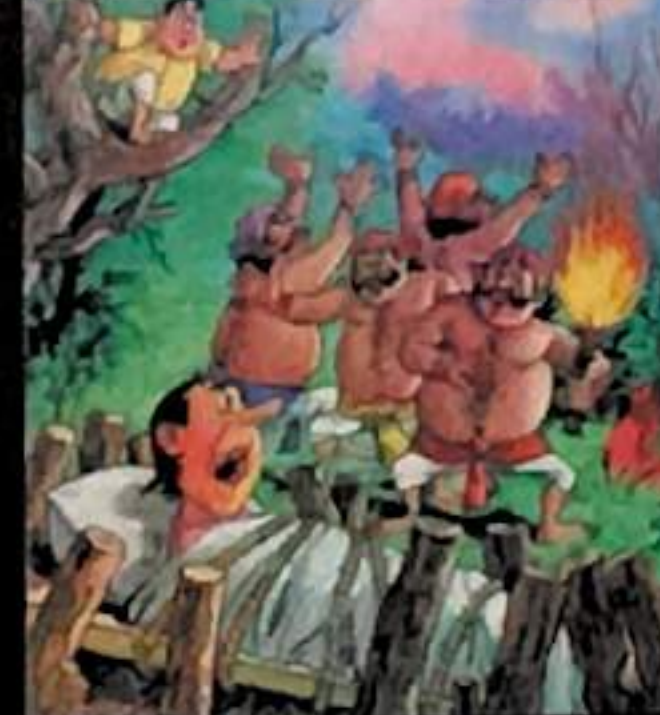
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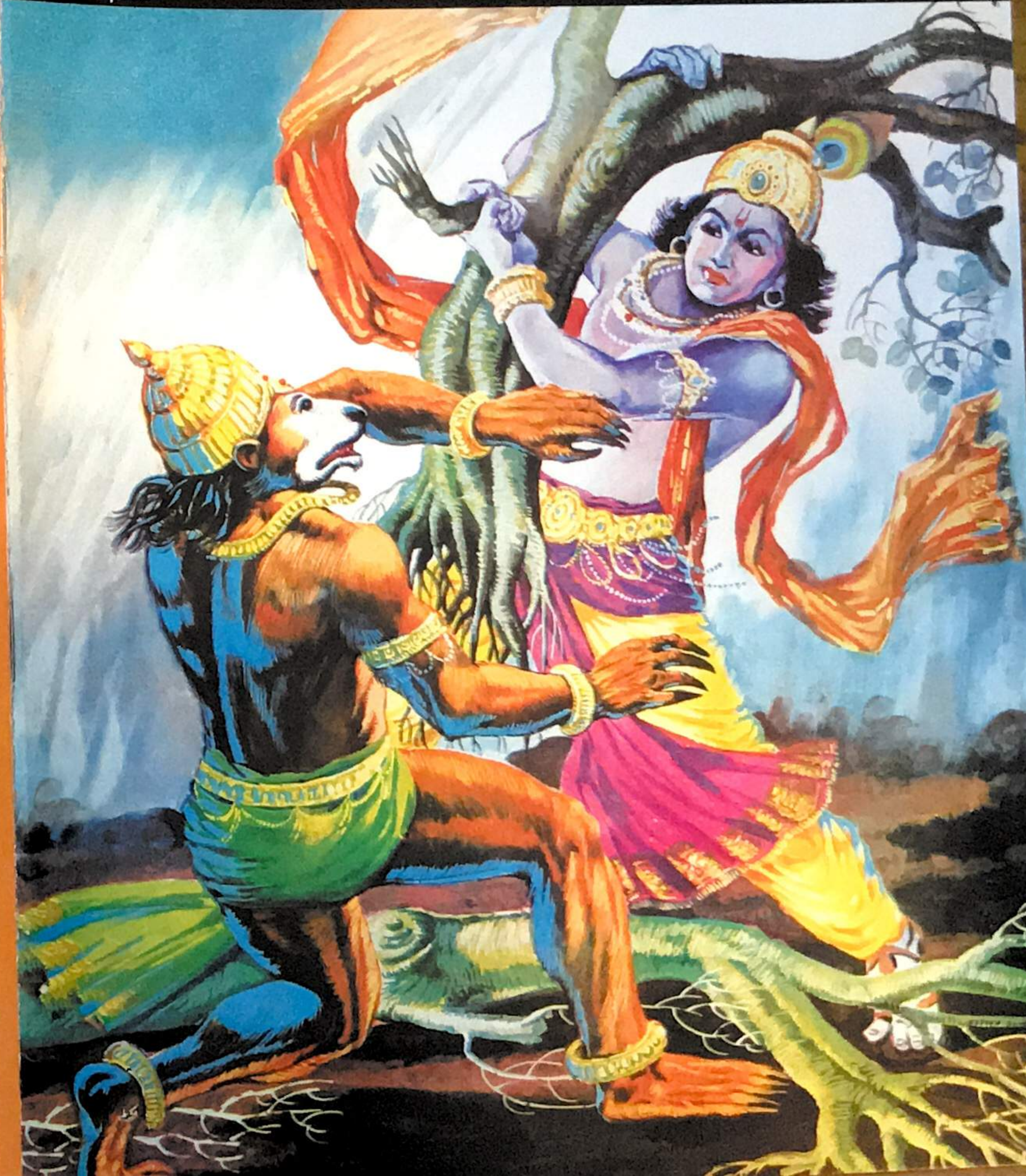
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THE SYAMANTAKA GEM

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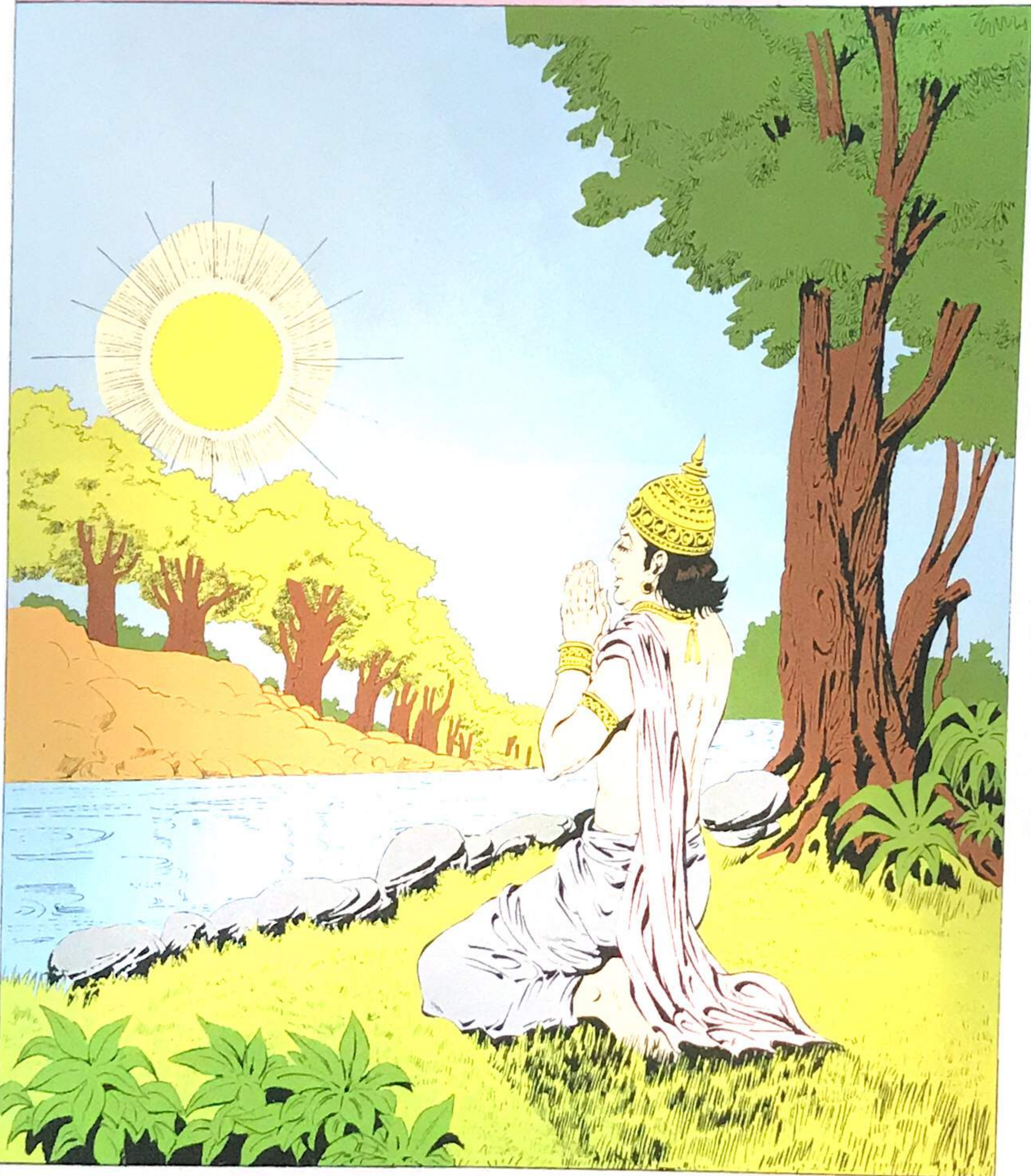


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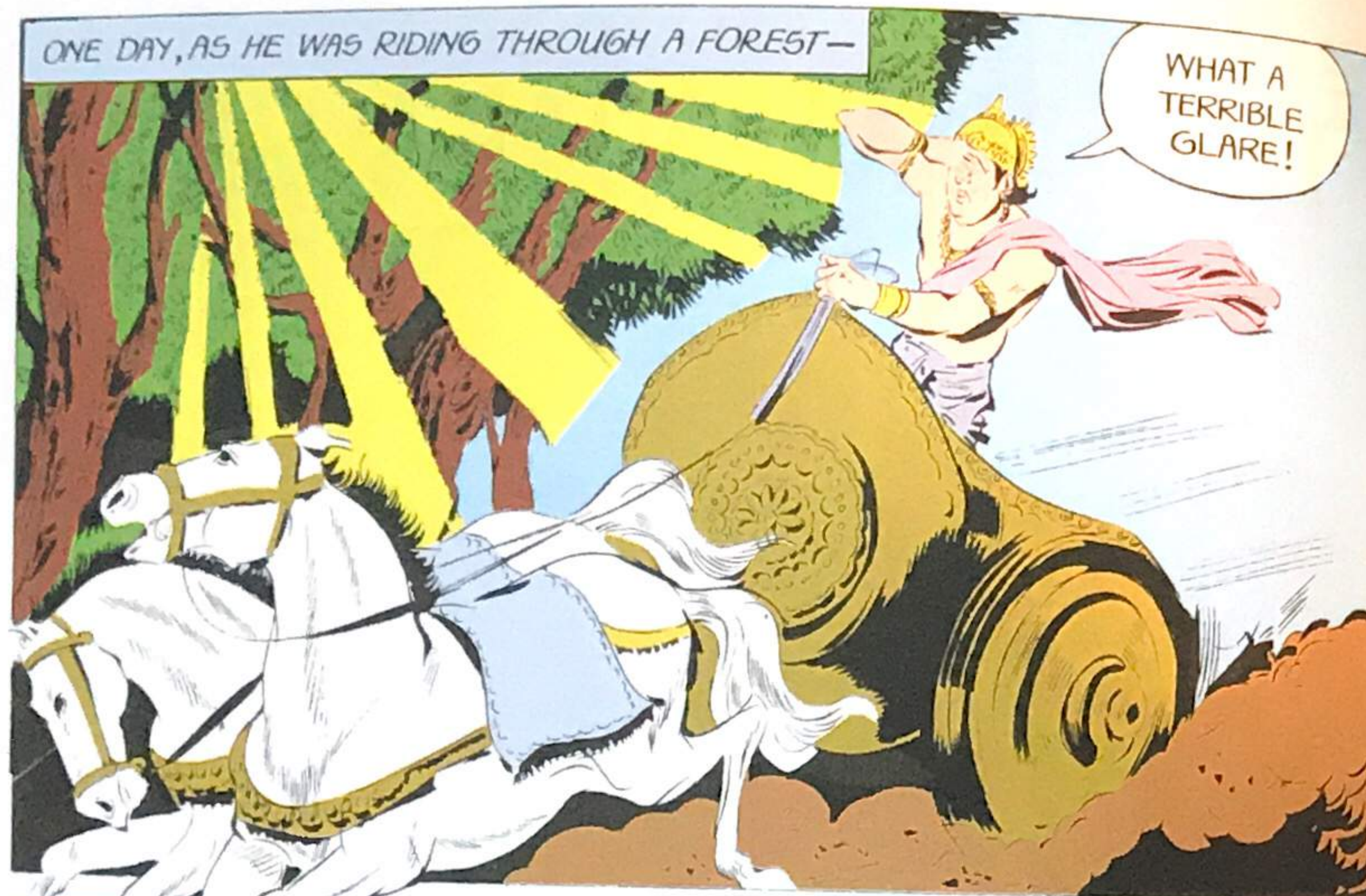


THE SYAMANTAKA GEM



PRINCE SATRAJIT OF DWARAKA WAS A
DEVOTEE OF SURYA, THE SUN GOD.

ONE DAY, AS HE WAS RIDING THROUGH A FOREST—



WHAT A
TERRIBLE
GLARE!

SUDDENLY THE TREES PARTED.



WHO ARE
YOU, MY
LORD?

HE
WHOM
YOU
WORSHIP.



I AM
BLESSED.



YOUR DEVOTION
MERITS A GIFT.
THE
SYMANTAKA GEM
IS YOURS.
TAKE IT.

THE SUN GOD DISAPPEARED.

THE JEWEL
SHINES SO
BRIGHTLY THAT
IT LIGHTS
MY PATH.



SATRAJIT RODE BACK TO DWARAKA WEARING ABOUT HIM THE RADIANCE OF THE SYAMANTAKA.



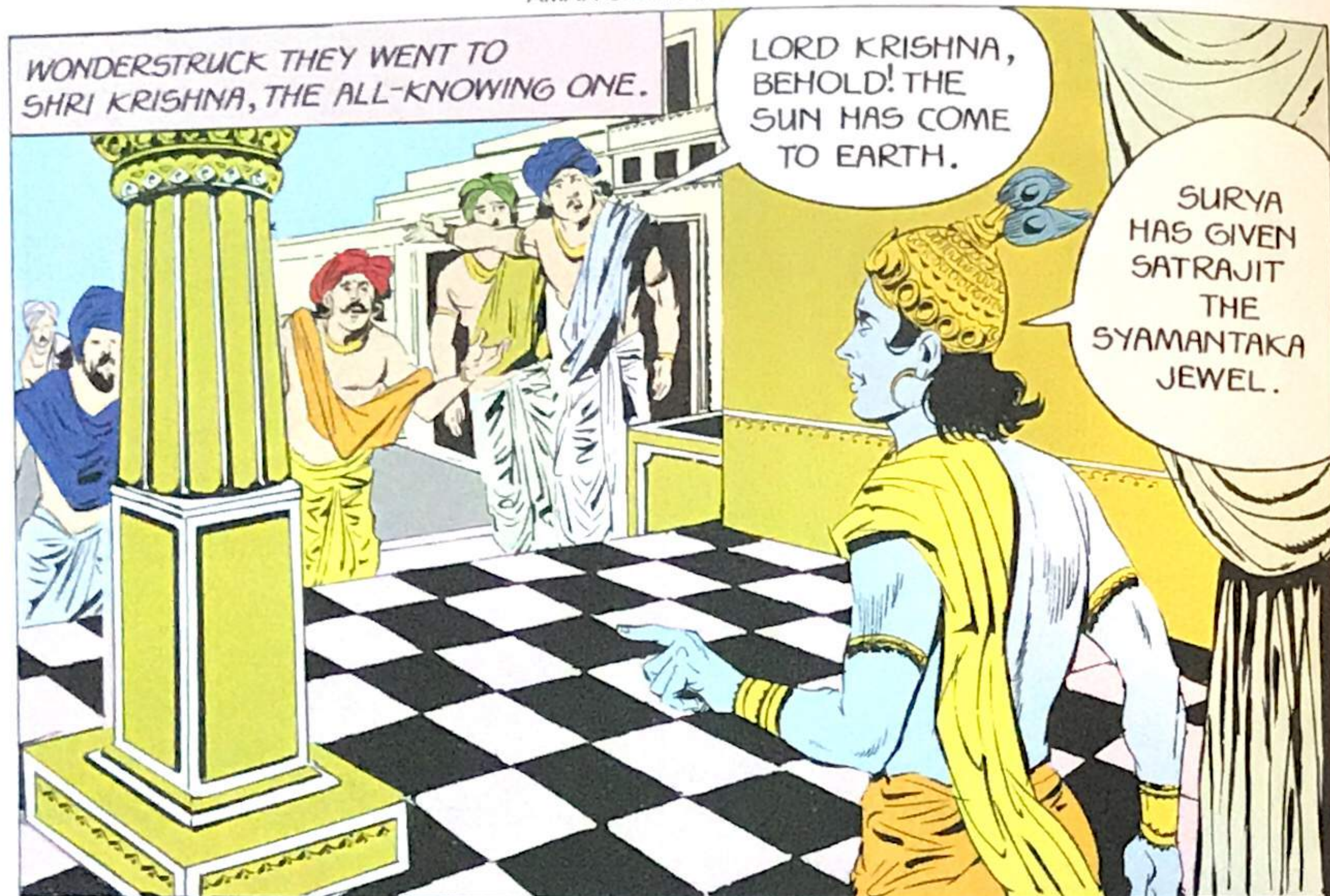
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO
OUR PRINCE?

HE
SHINES WITH
A STRANGE
LIGHT.

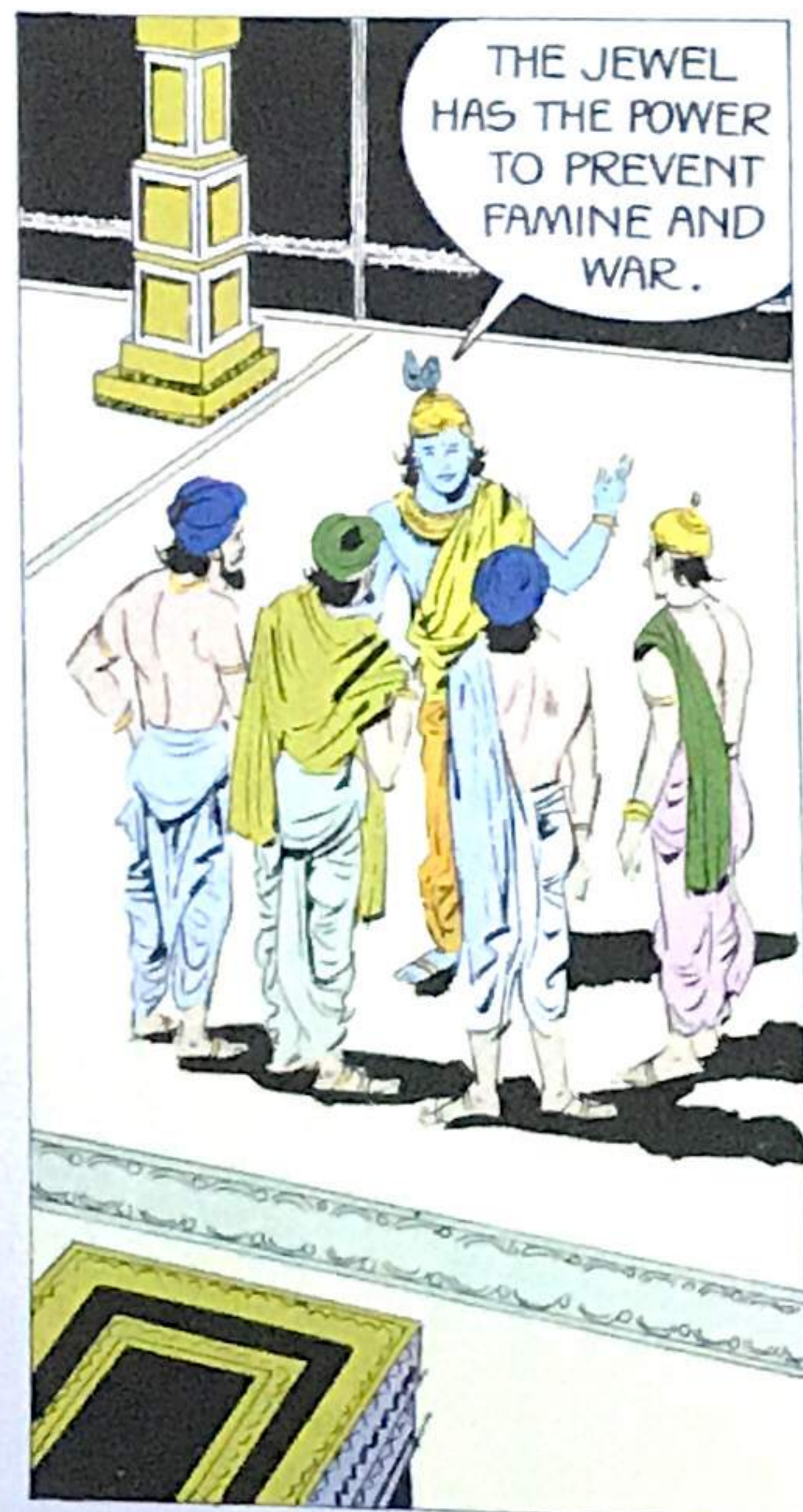
WONDERSTRUCK THEY WENT TO SHRI KRISHNA, THE ALL-KNOWING ONE.

LORD KRISHNA, BEHOLD! THE SUN HAS COME TO EARTH.

SURYA HAS GIVEN SATRAJIT THE SYAMANTAKA JEWEL.



THE JEWEL HAS THE POWER TO PREVENT FAMINE AND WAR.



MEANWHILE SATRAJIT REACHED HIS PALACE.

HAIL!



HAIL!

THAT NIGHT HE WENT TO BED, WEARING THE GEM.



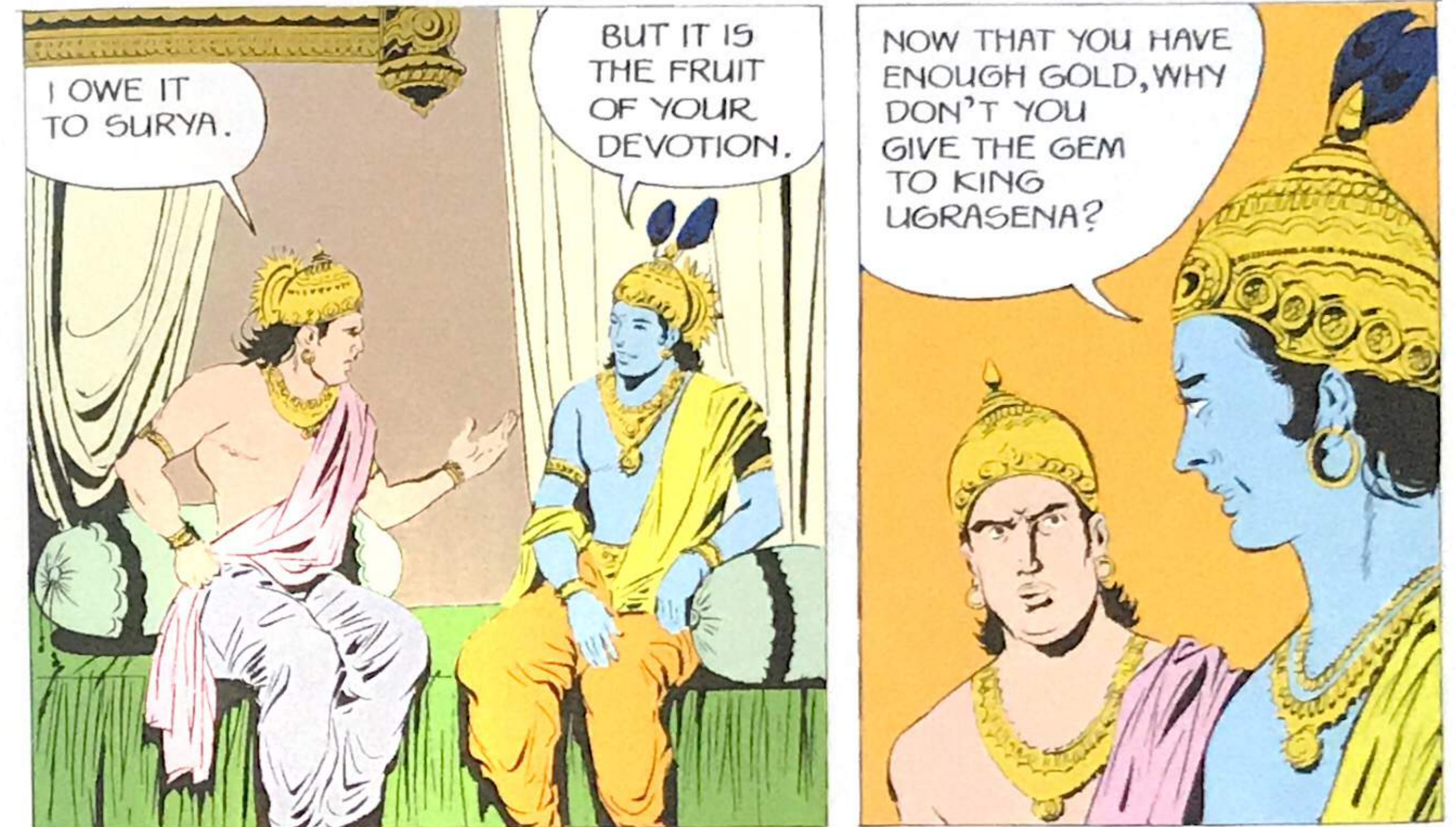
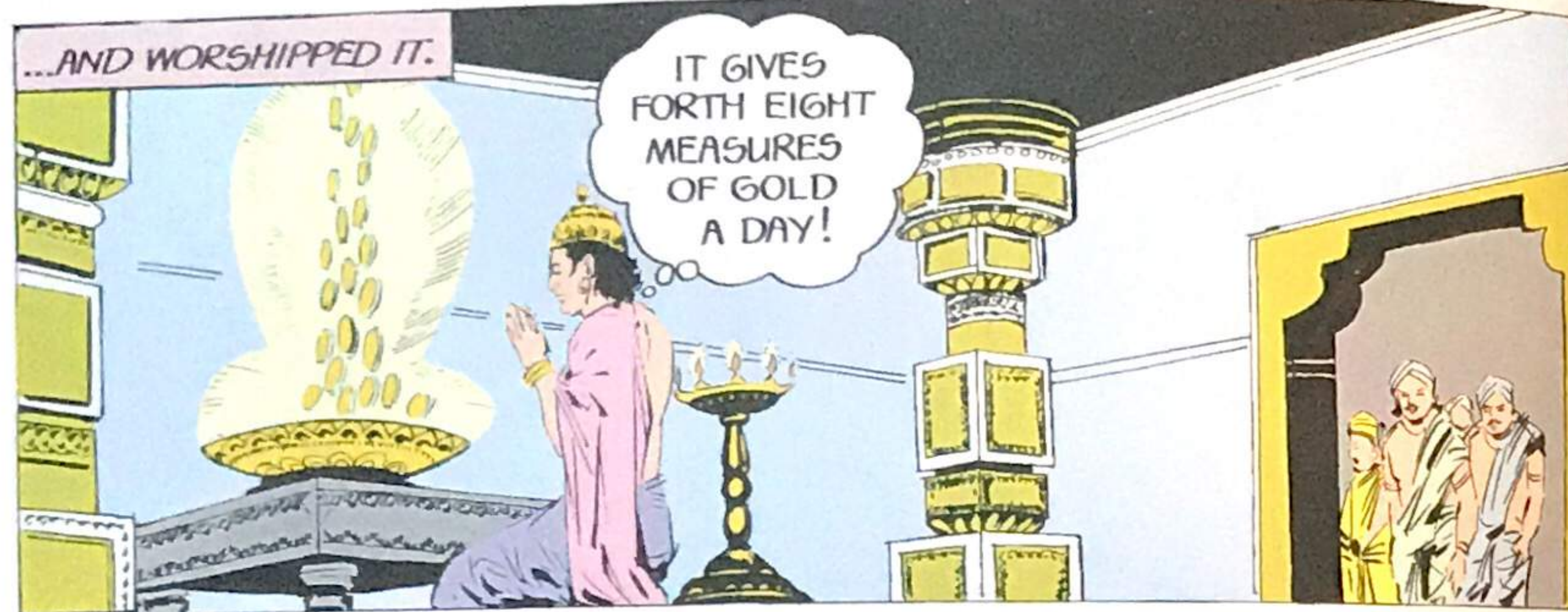
THE NEXT MORNING -

GOLD COINS!



HE INSTALLED THE GEM IN A TEMPLE...

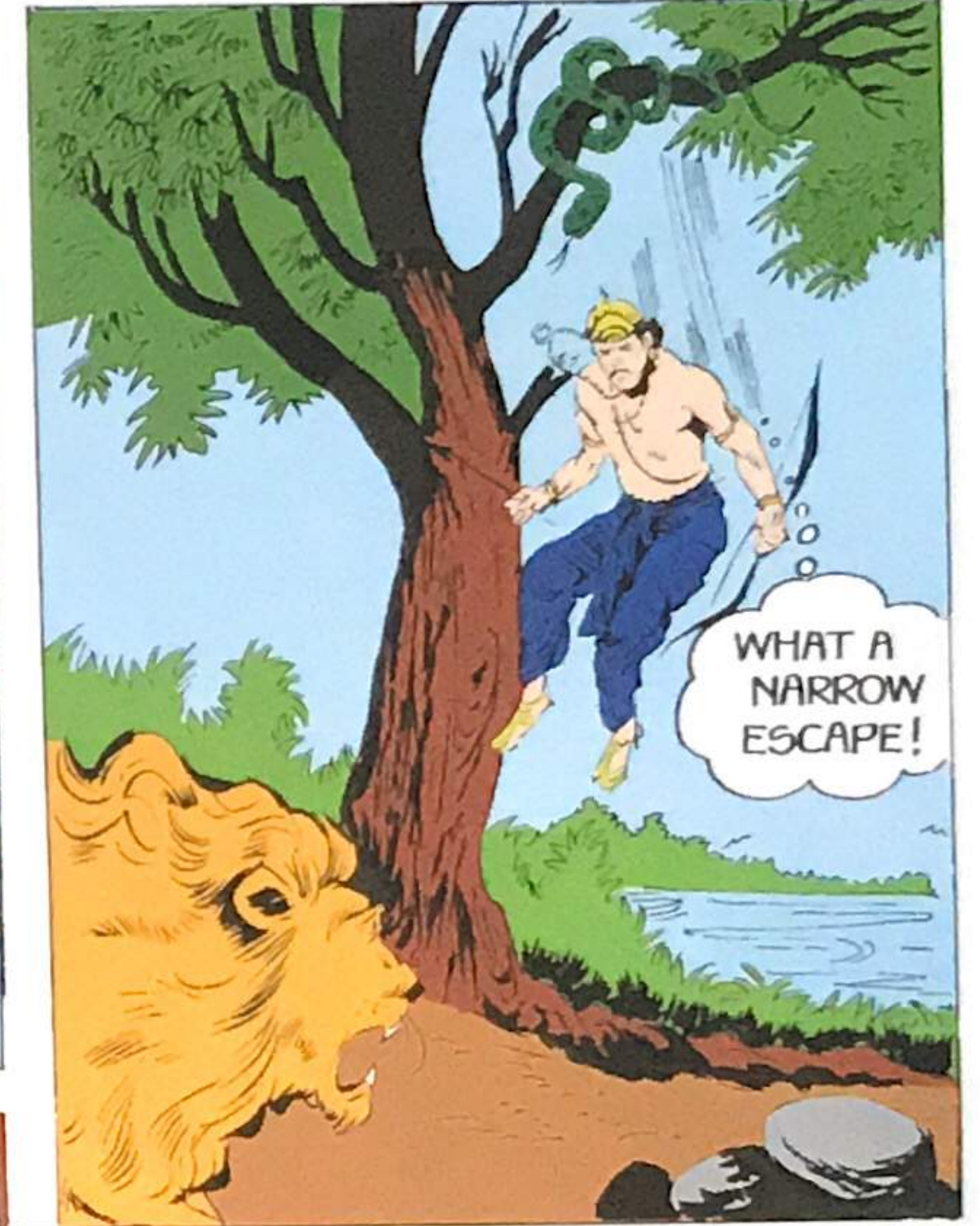
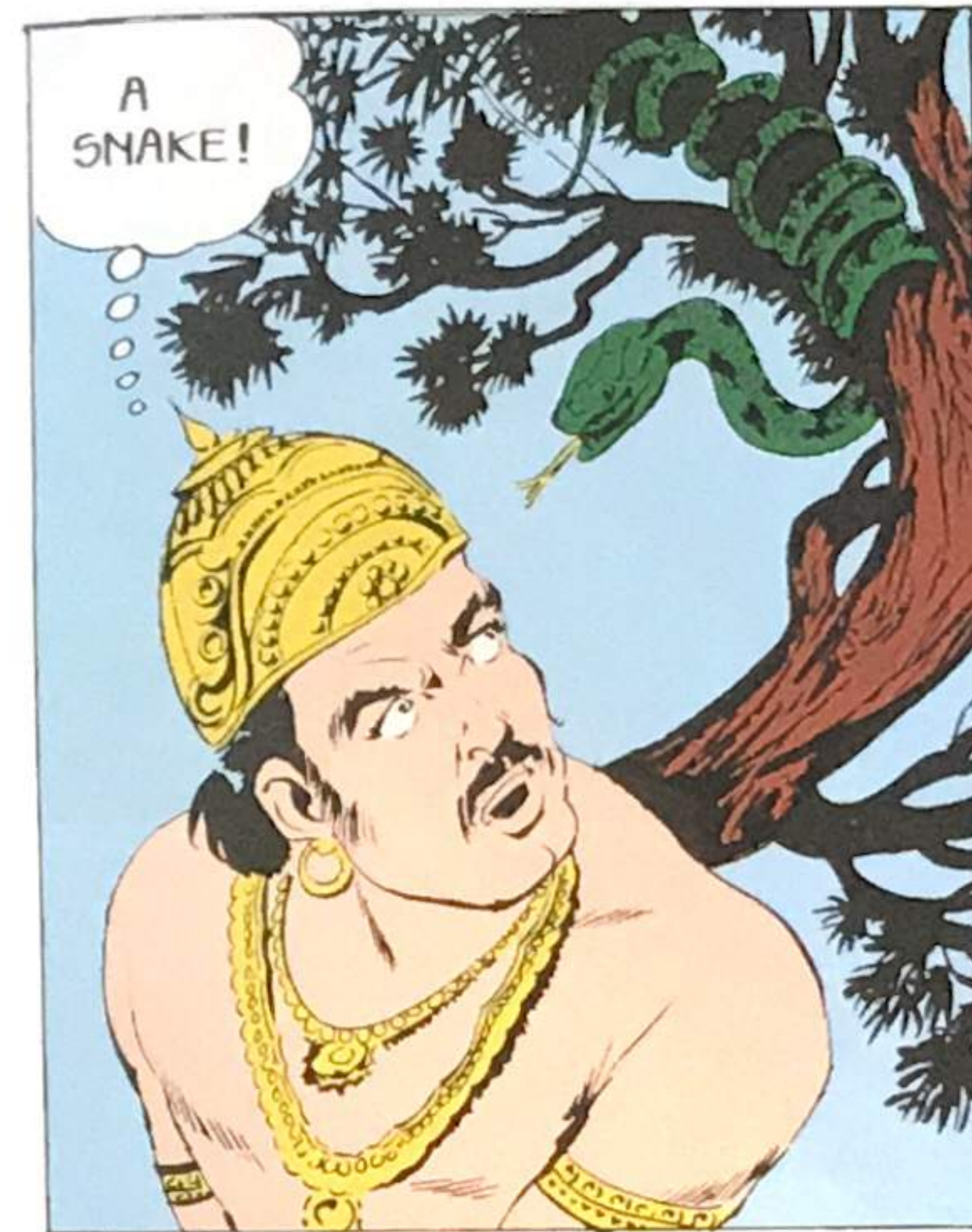
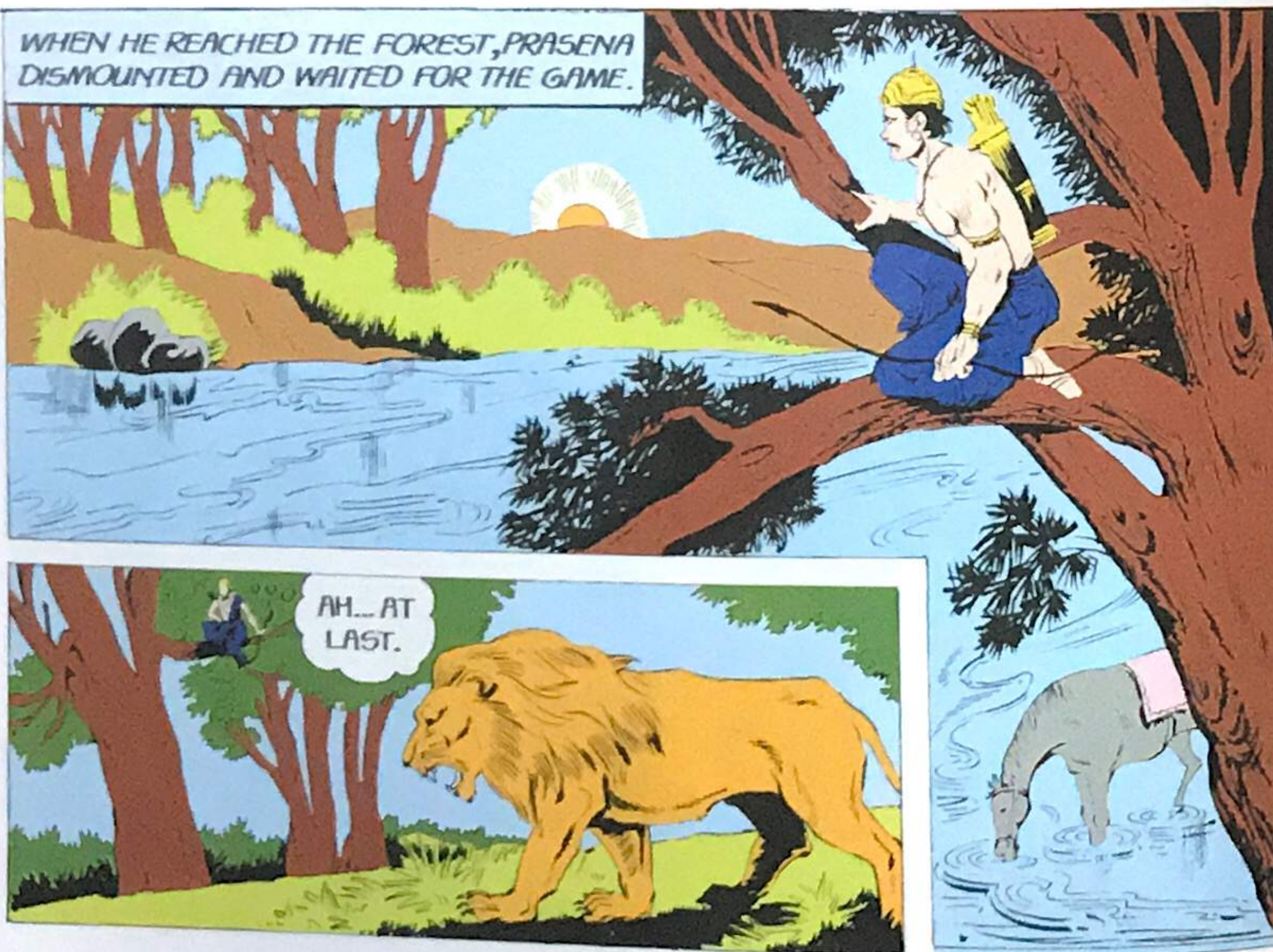




A FEW DAYS LATER, SATRAJIT'S BROTHER, PRASENA, WENT OUT ON A HUNT, WEARING THE JEWEL.

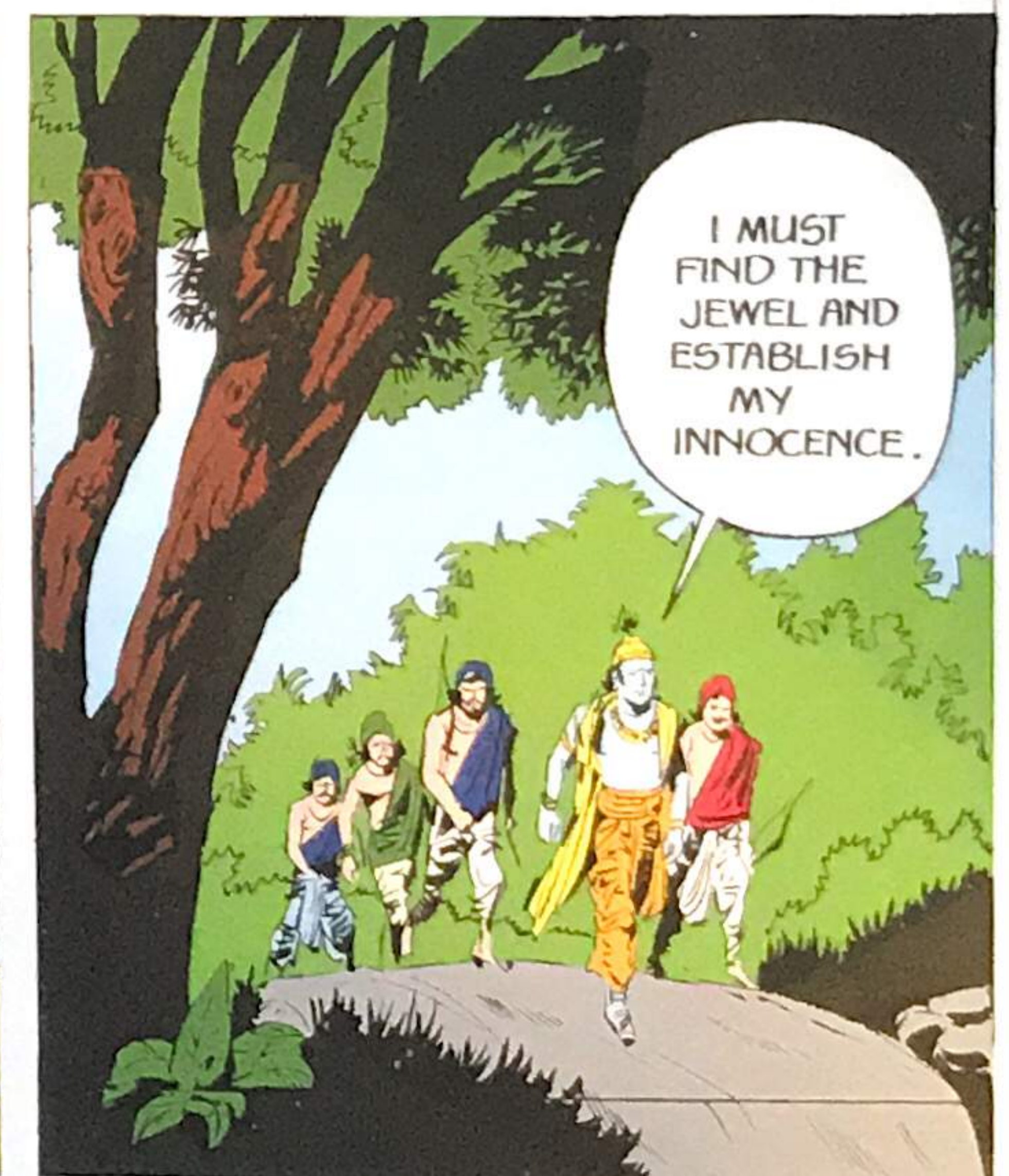
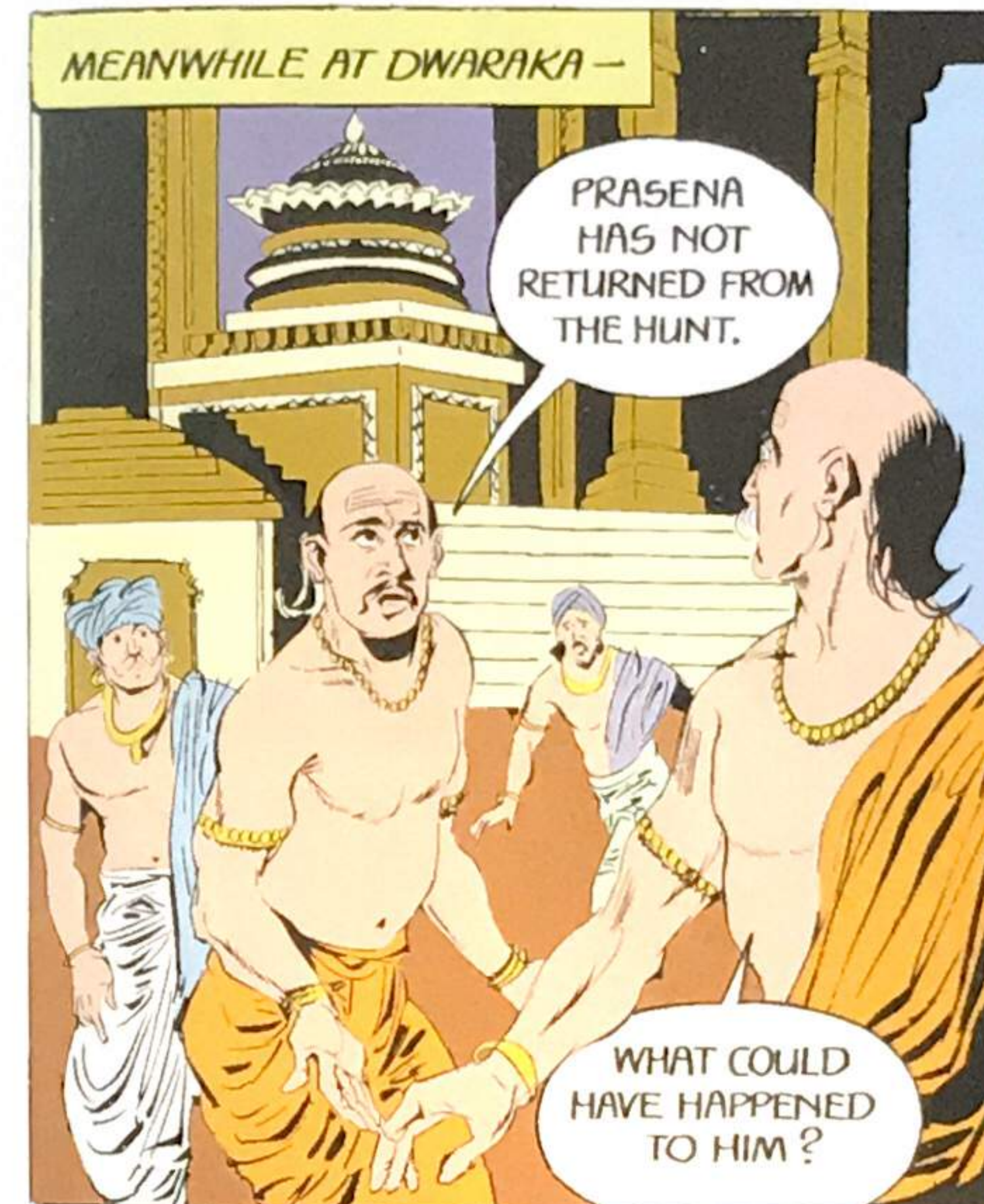


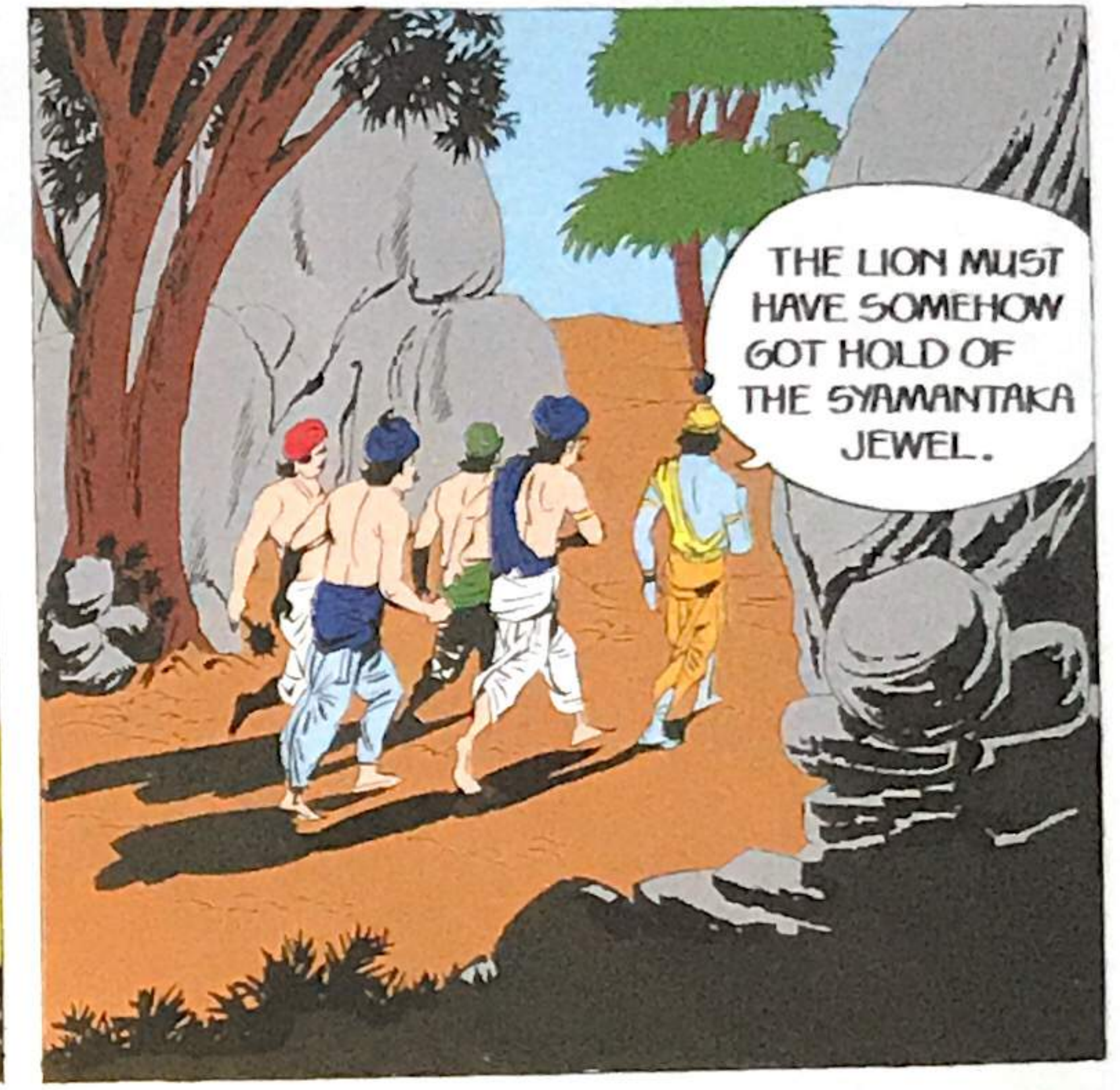
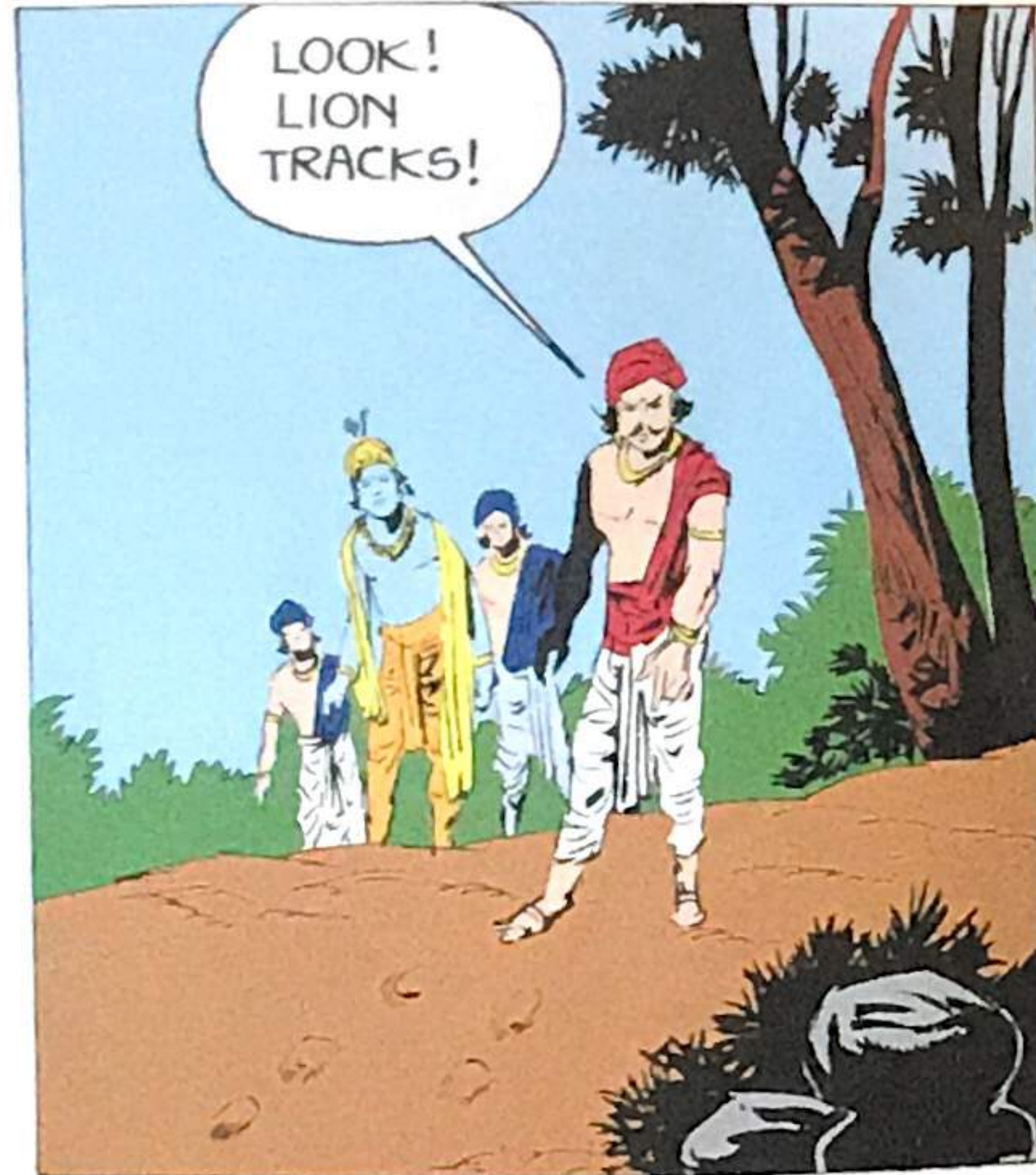
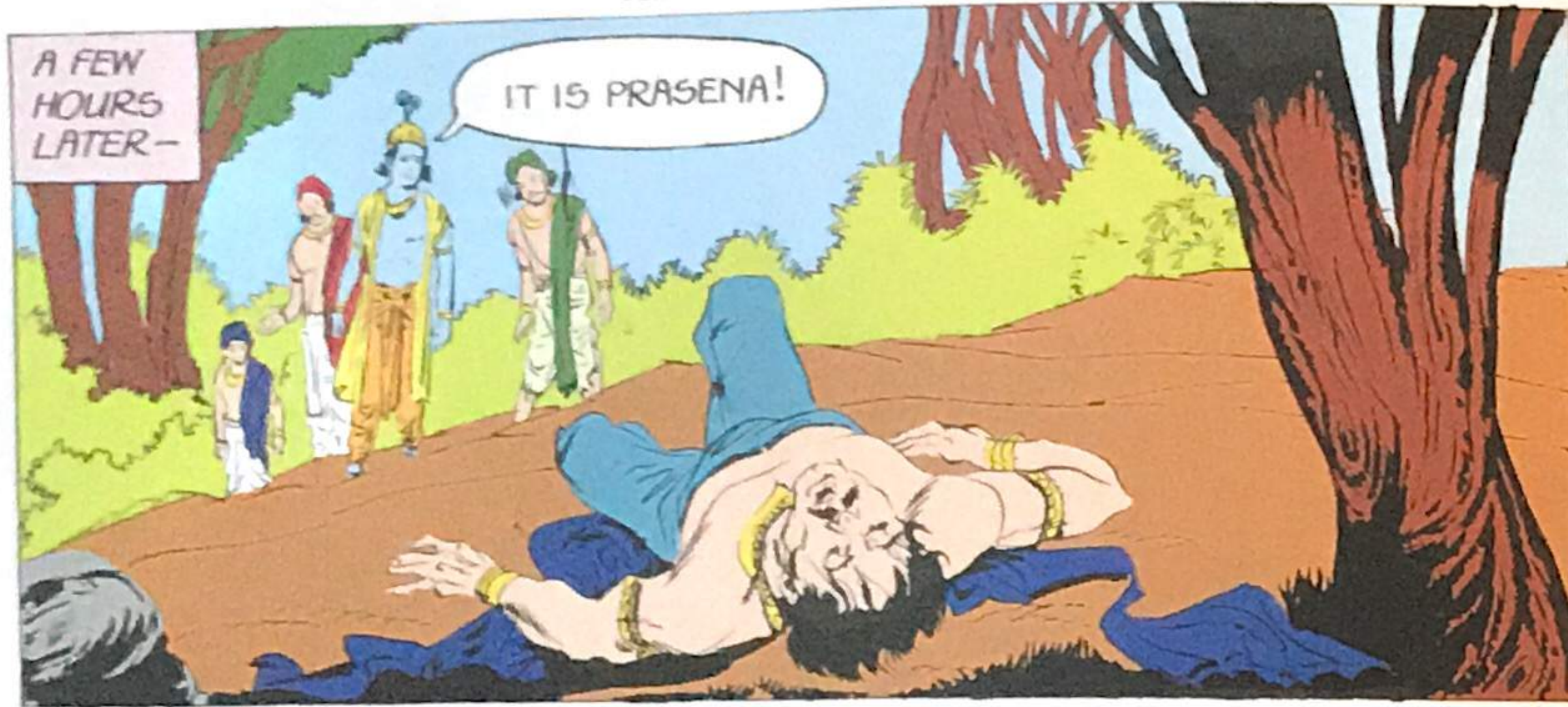
WHEN HE REACHED THE FOREST, PRASENA DISMOUNTED AND WAITED FOR THE GAME.



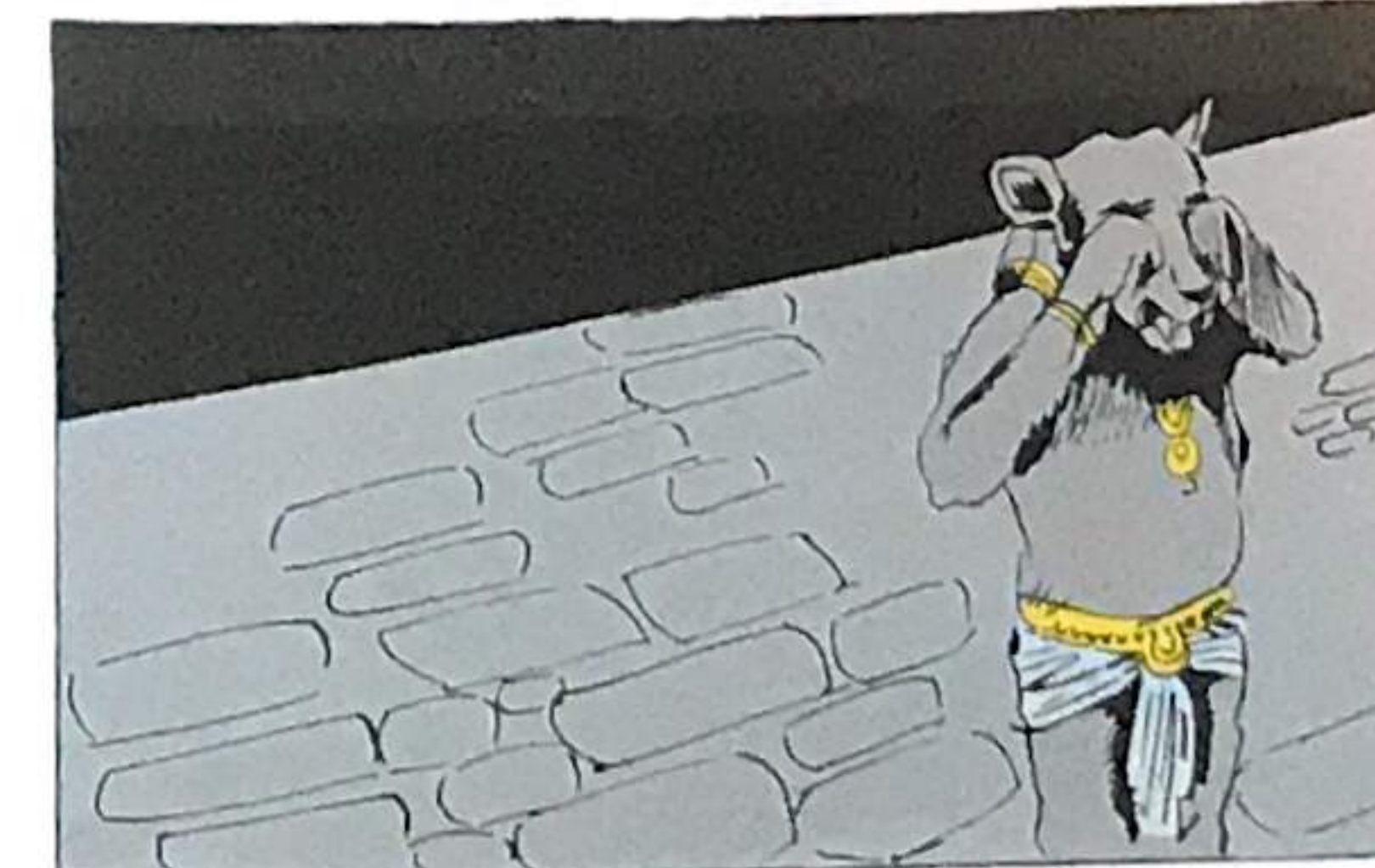
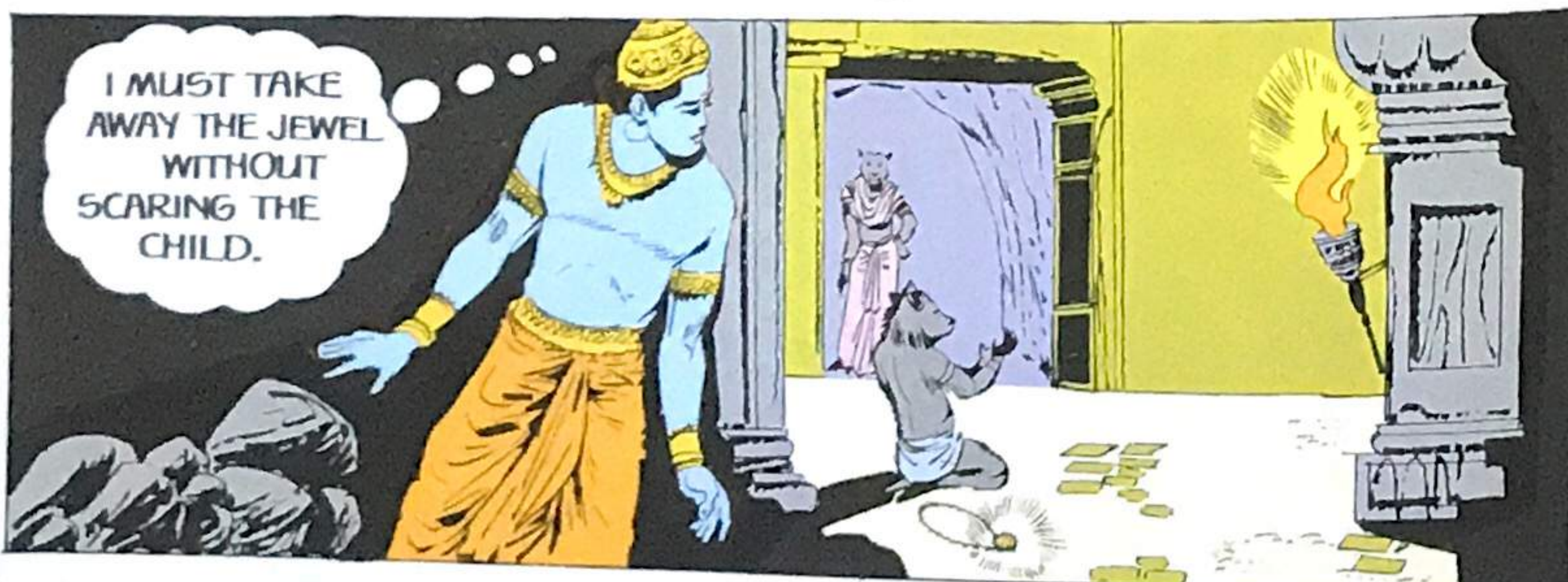
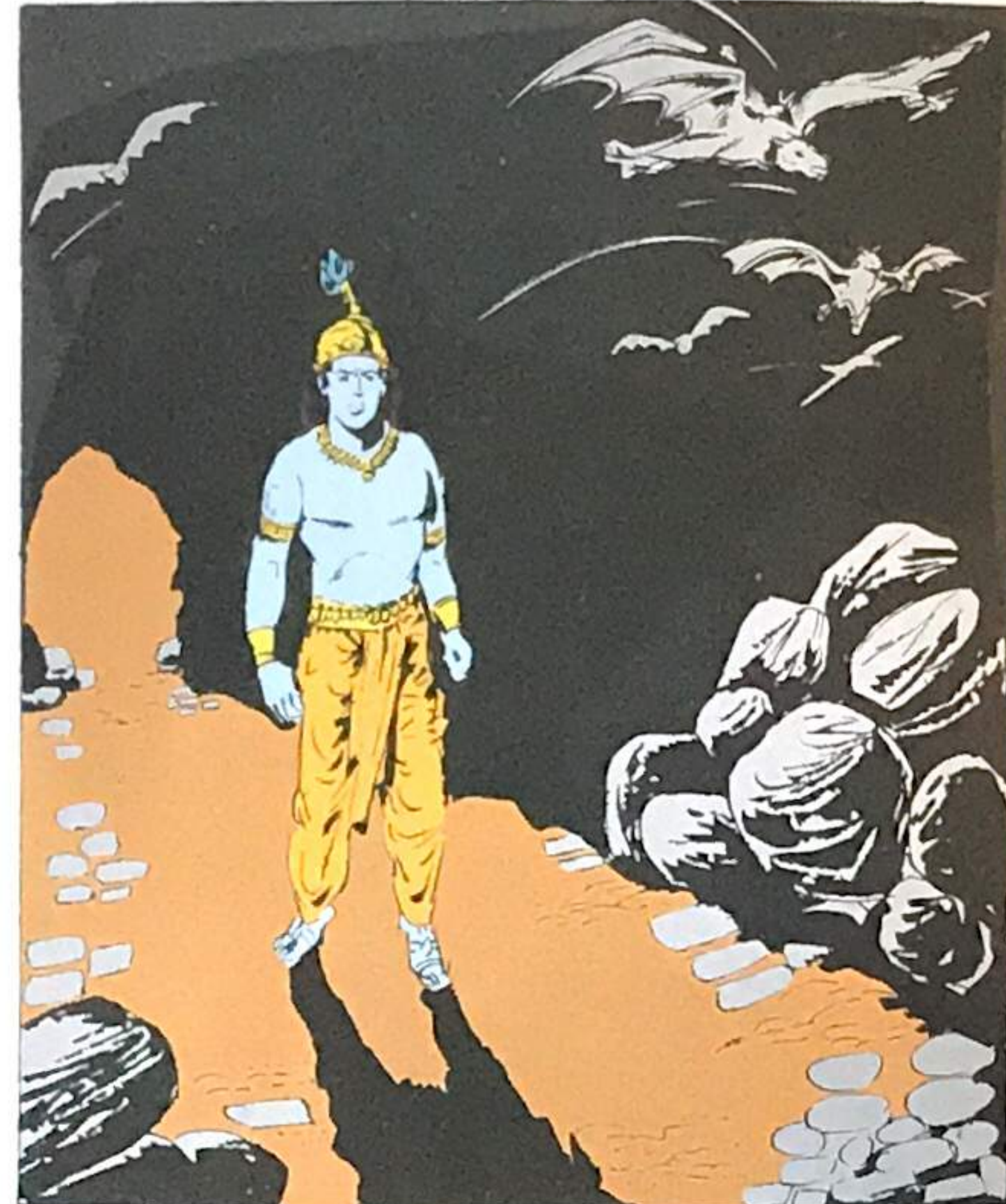
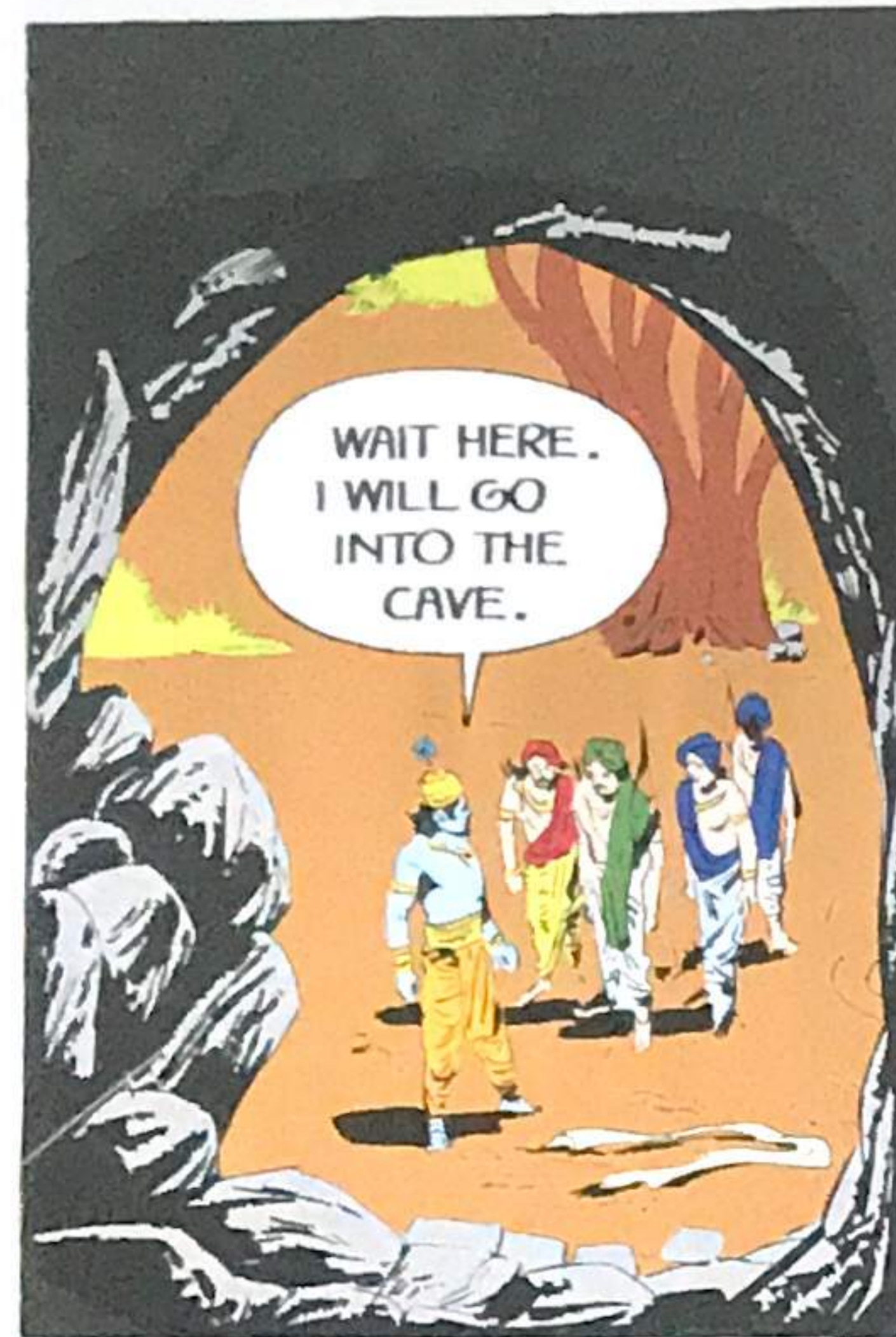
BUT—

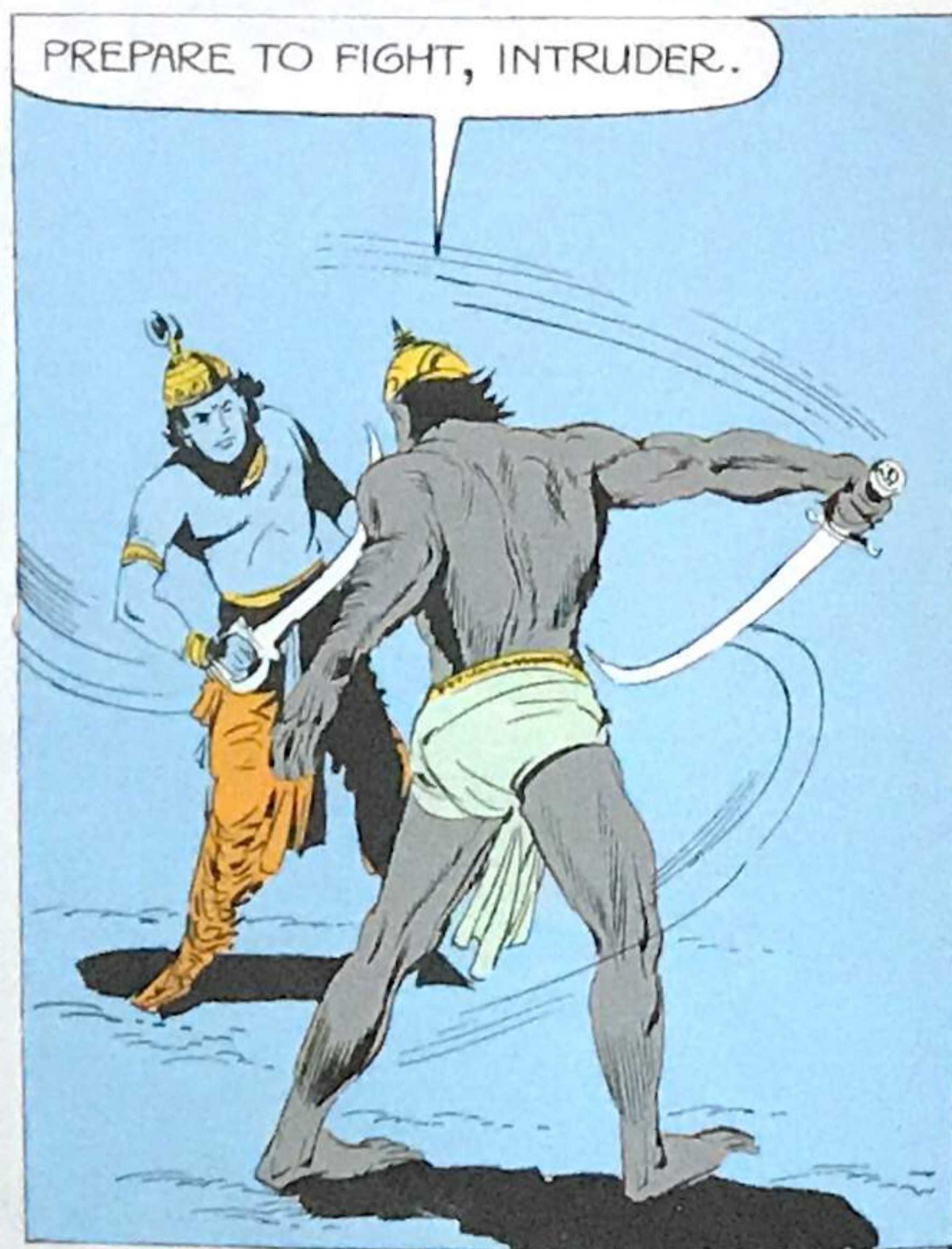


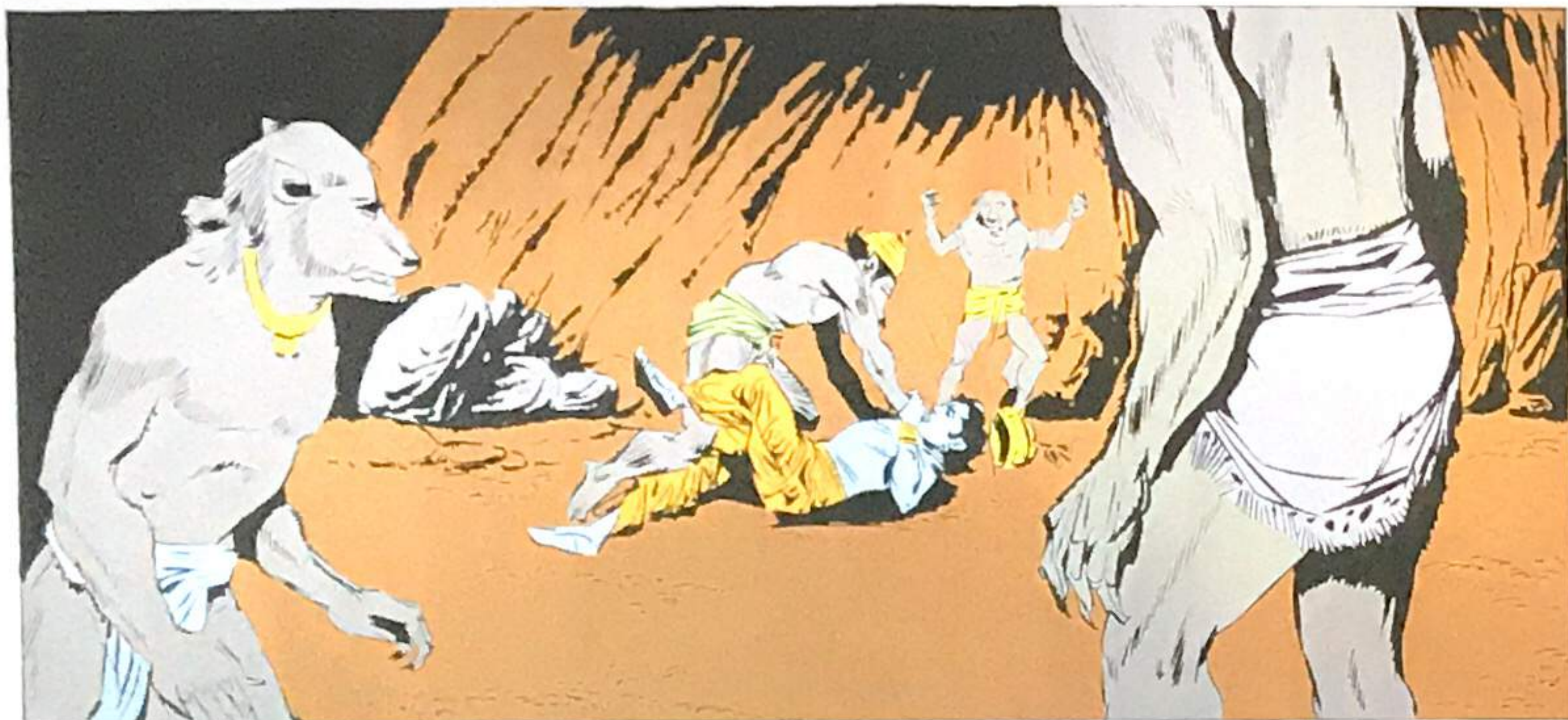




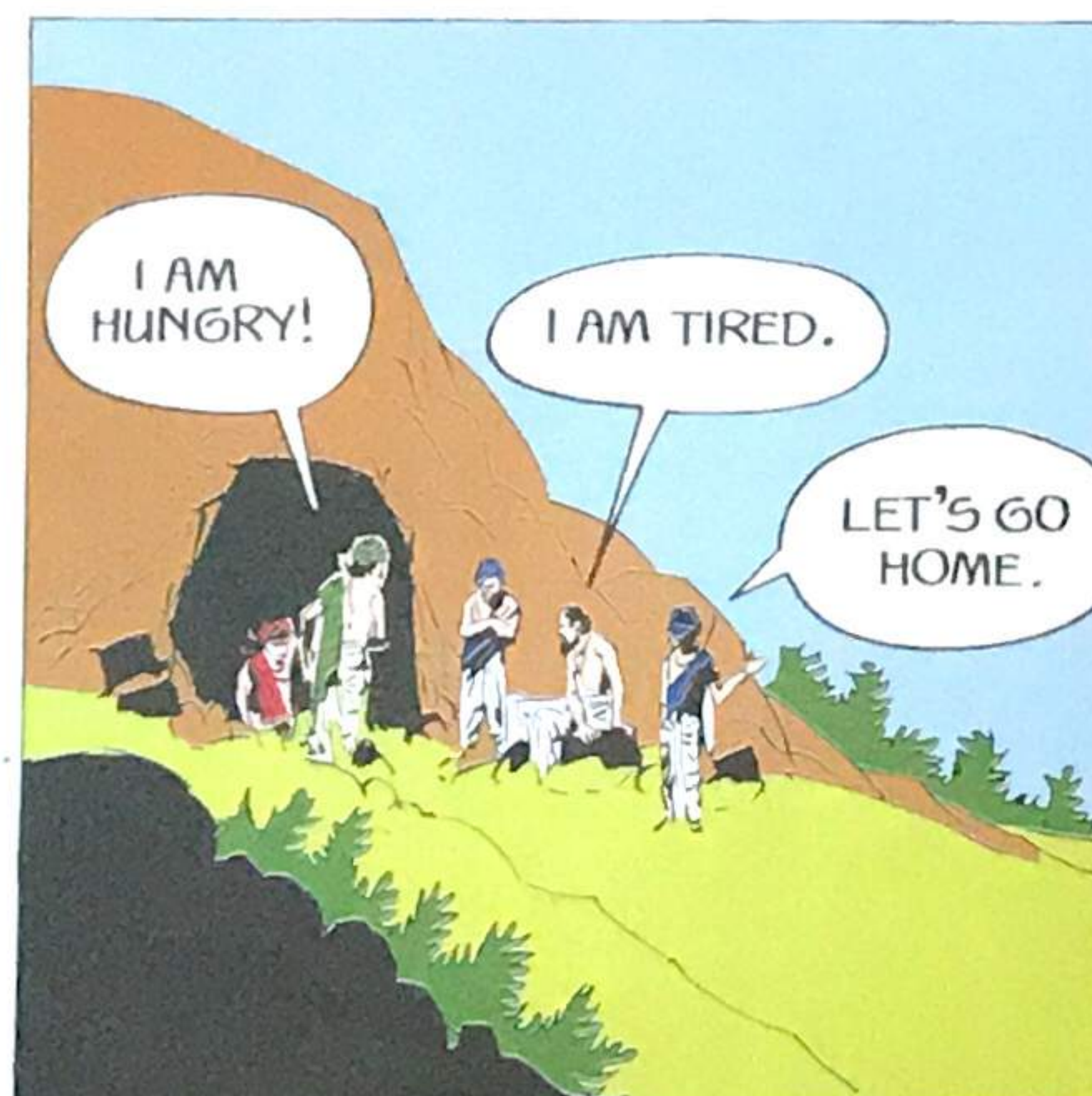
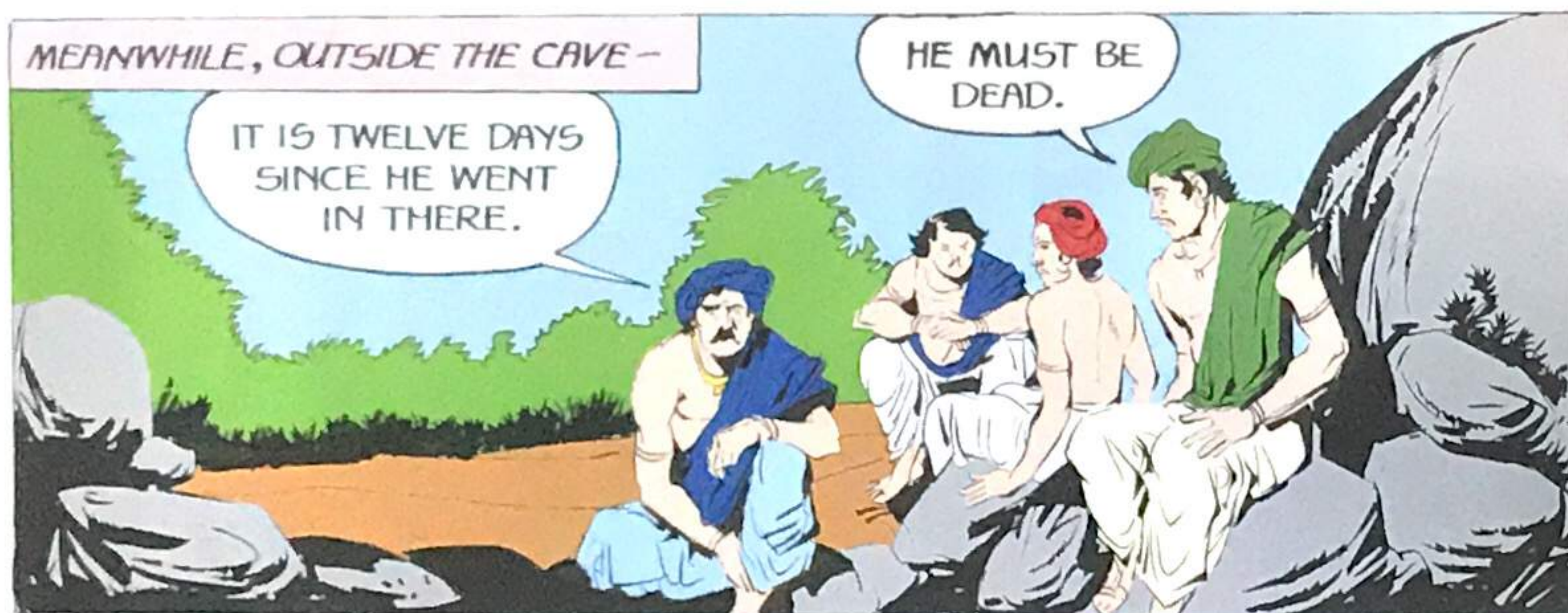
I WONDER WHO KILLED IT.







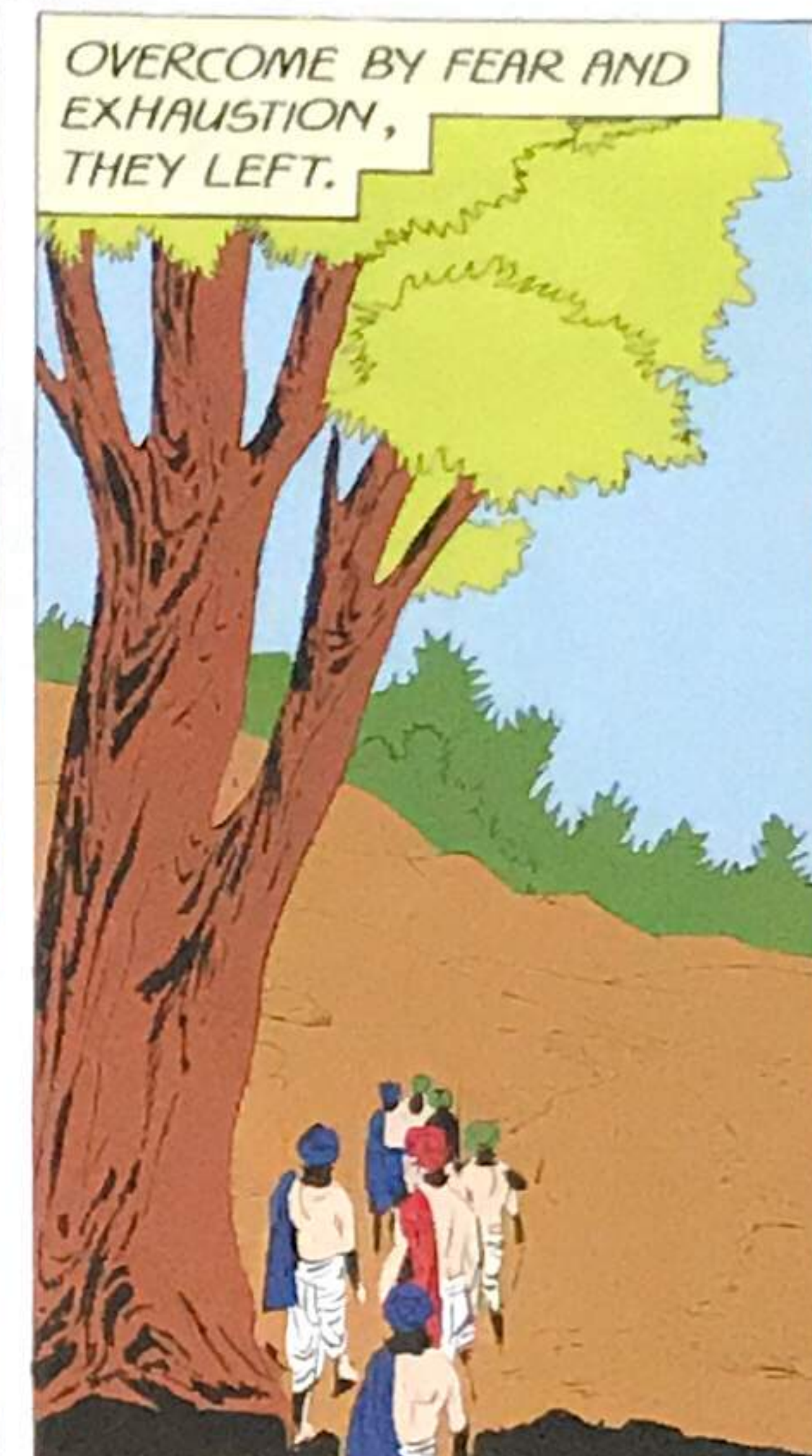
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE CAVE -



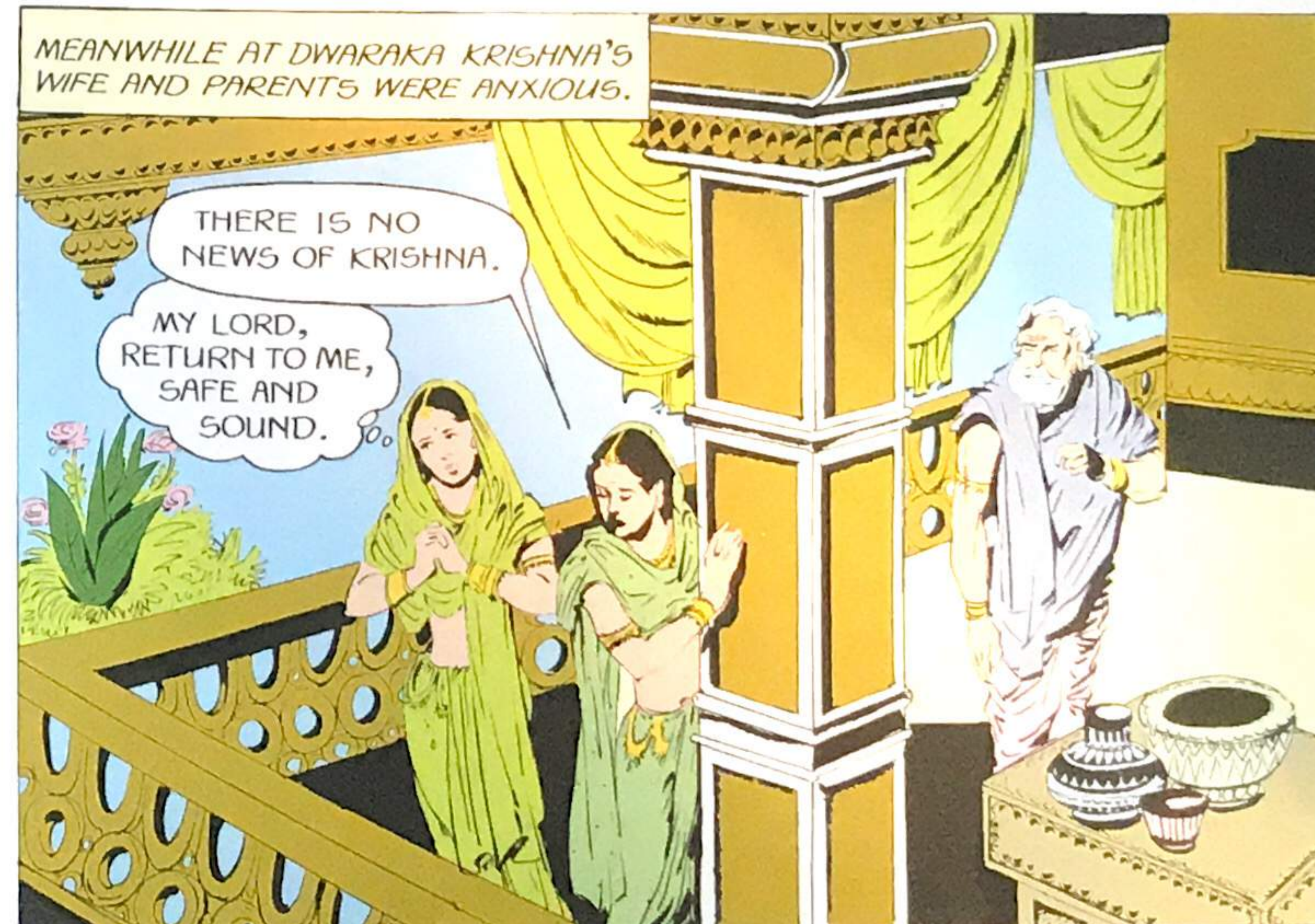
AN OWL HOOTED -

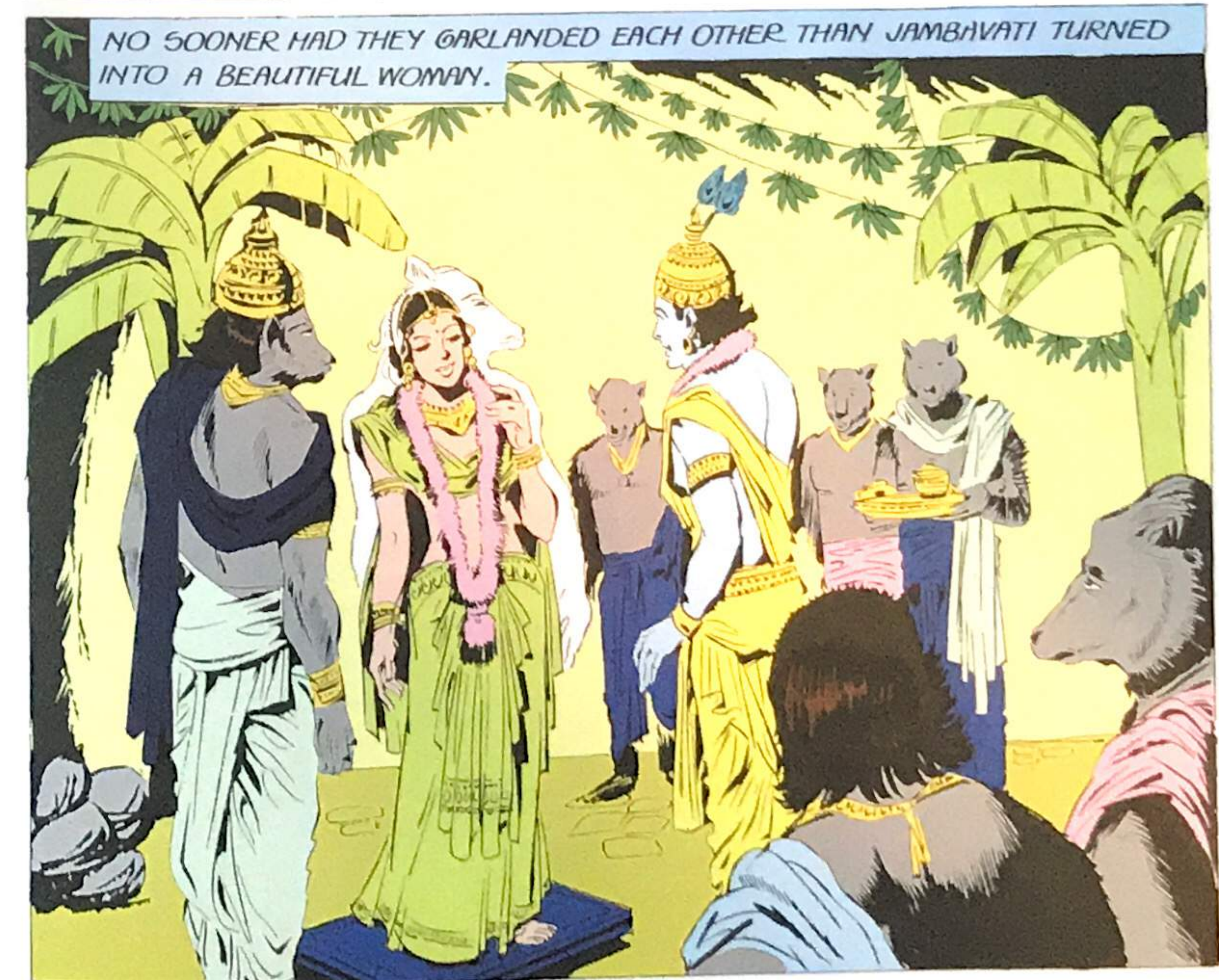
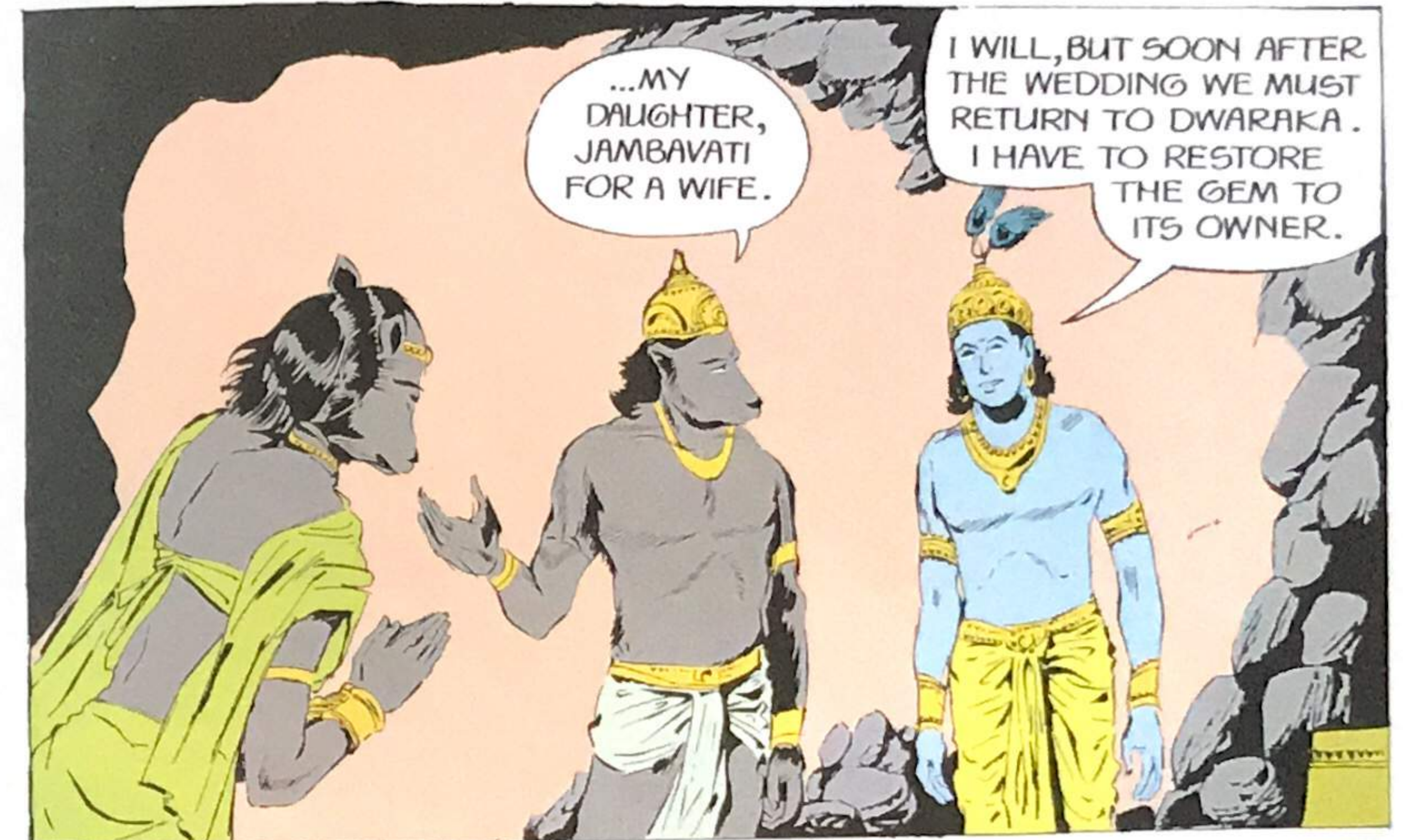
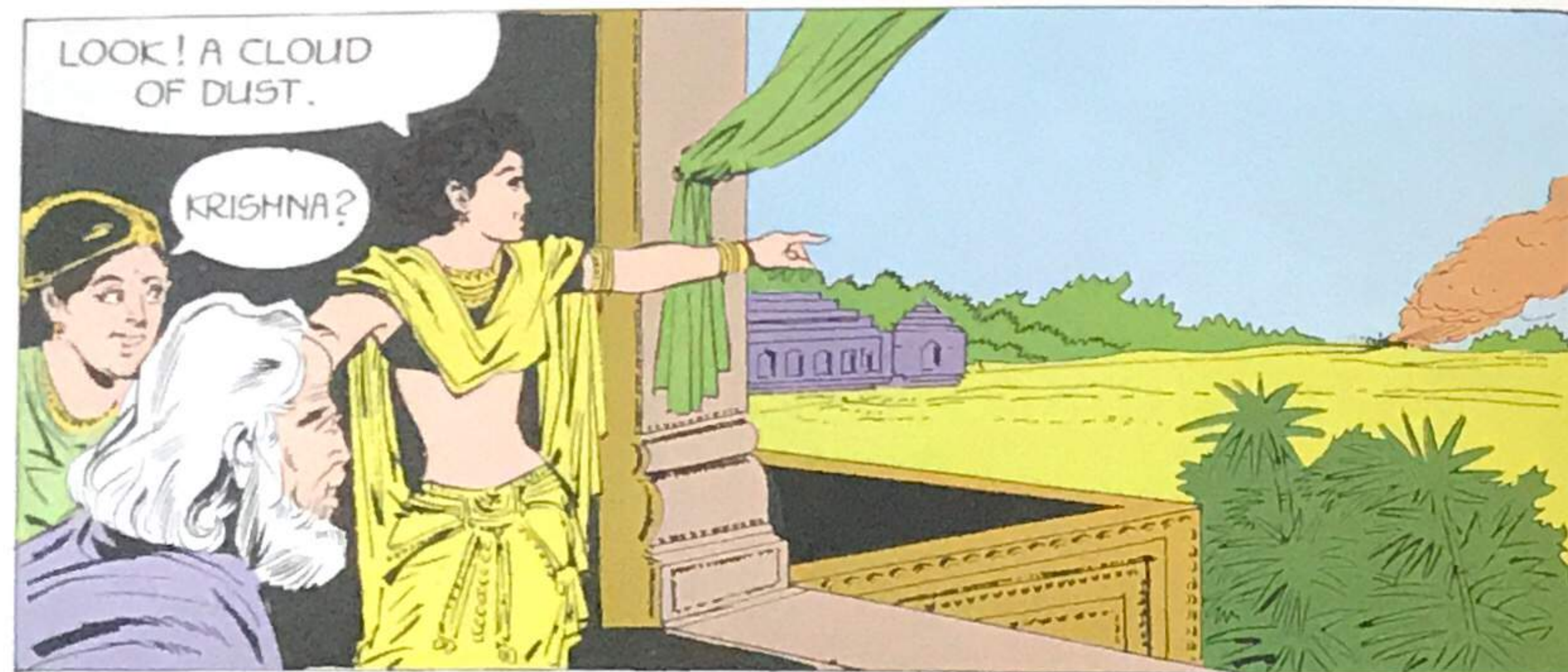


OVERCOME BY FEAR AND EXHAUSTION, THEY LEFT.

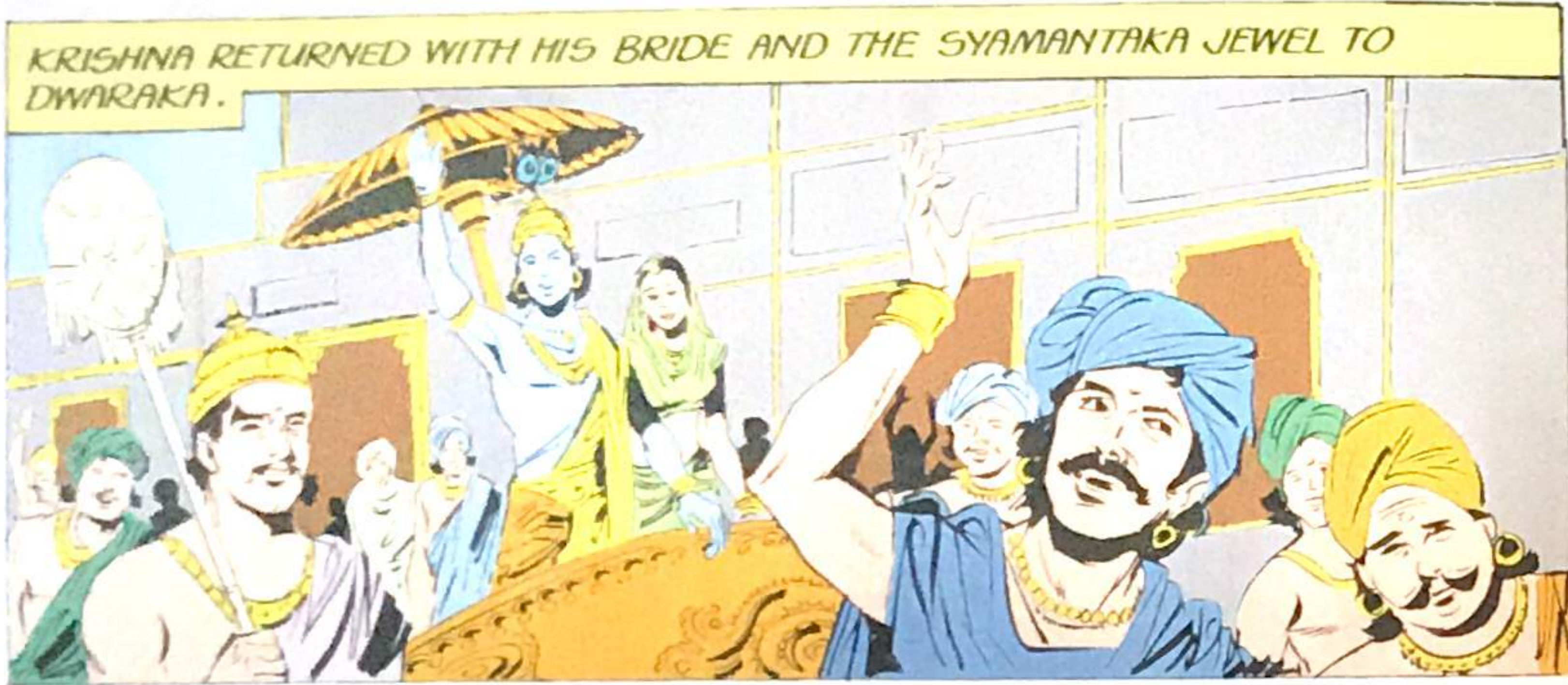


MEANWHILE AT DWARAKA KRISHNA'S WIFE AND PARENTS WERE ANXIOUS.





KRISHNA RETURNED WITH HIS BRIDE AND THE SYAMANTAKA JEWEL TO DWARAKA.



KRISHNA HAS COME, WITH A LOVELY BRIDE.



TELL SATRAJIT TO COME TO THE COURT. I HAVE SOMETHING FOR HIM.



WHEN SATRAJIT CAME—

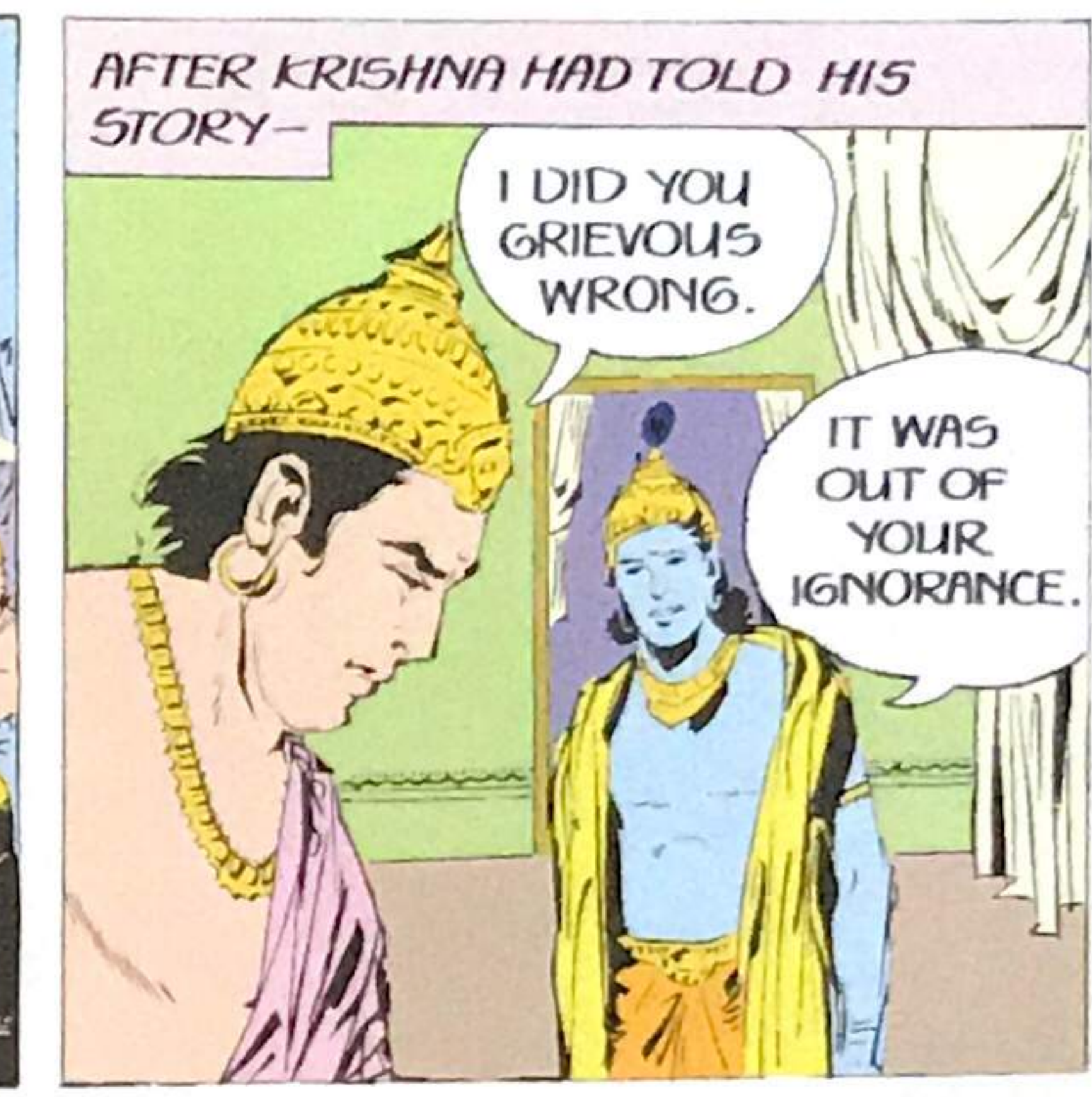
I HAVE FOUND THE SYAMANTAKA GEM.



AFTER KRISHNA HAD TOLD HIS STORY—

I DID YOU GRIEVOUSLY WRONG.

IT WAS OUT OF YOUR IGNORANCE.



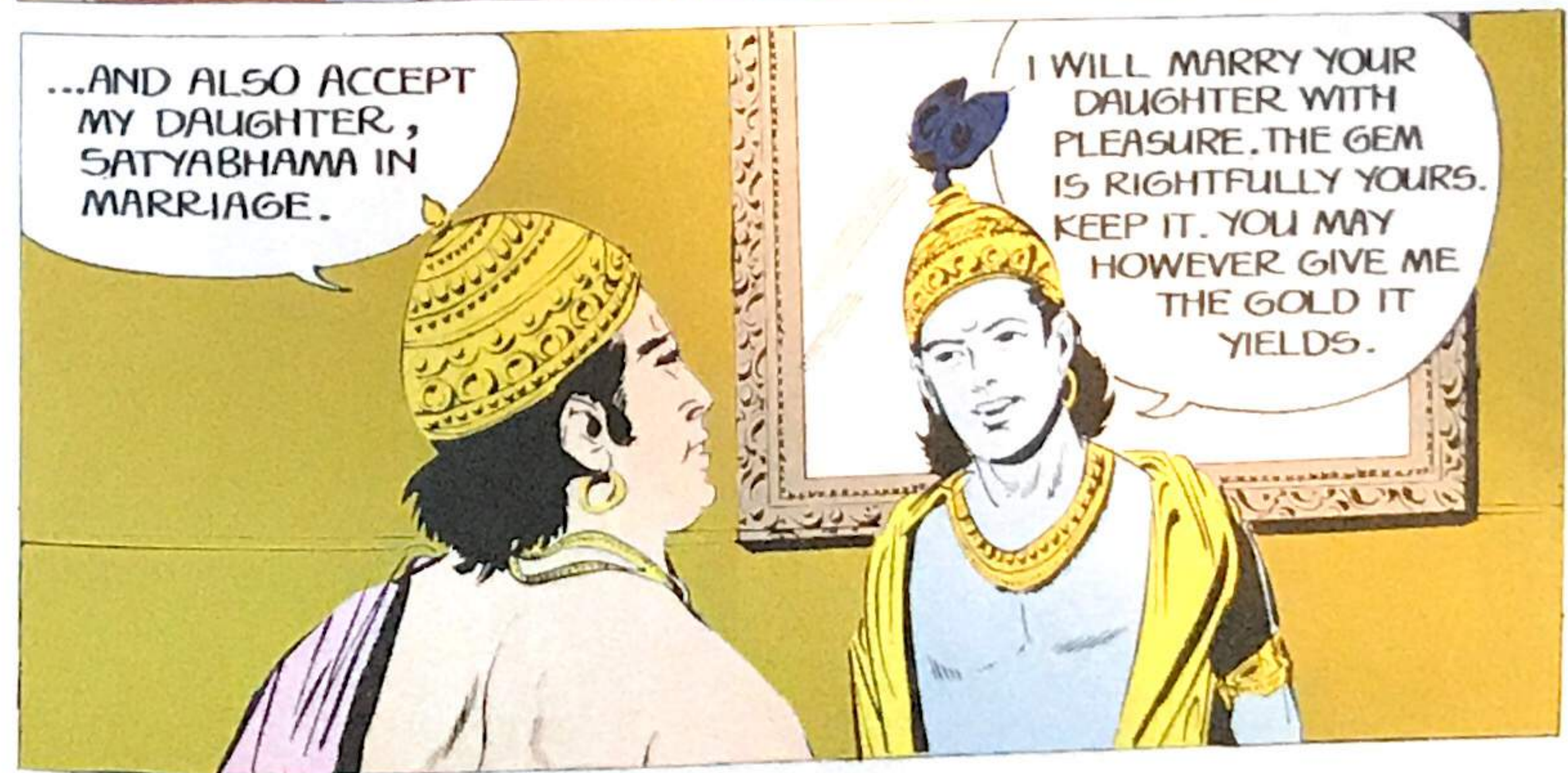
SATRAJIT WANTED TO MAKE AMENDS.

KEEP THE JEWEL, KRISHNA...



...AND ALSO ACCEPT MY DAUGHTER, SATYABHAMA IN MARRIAGE.

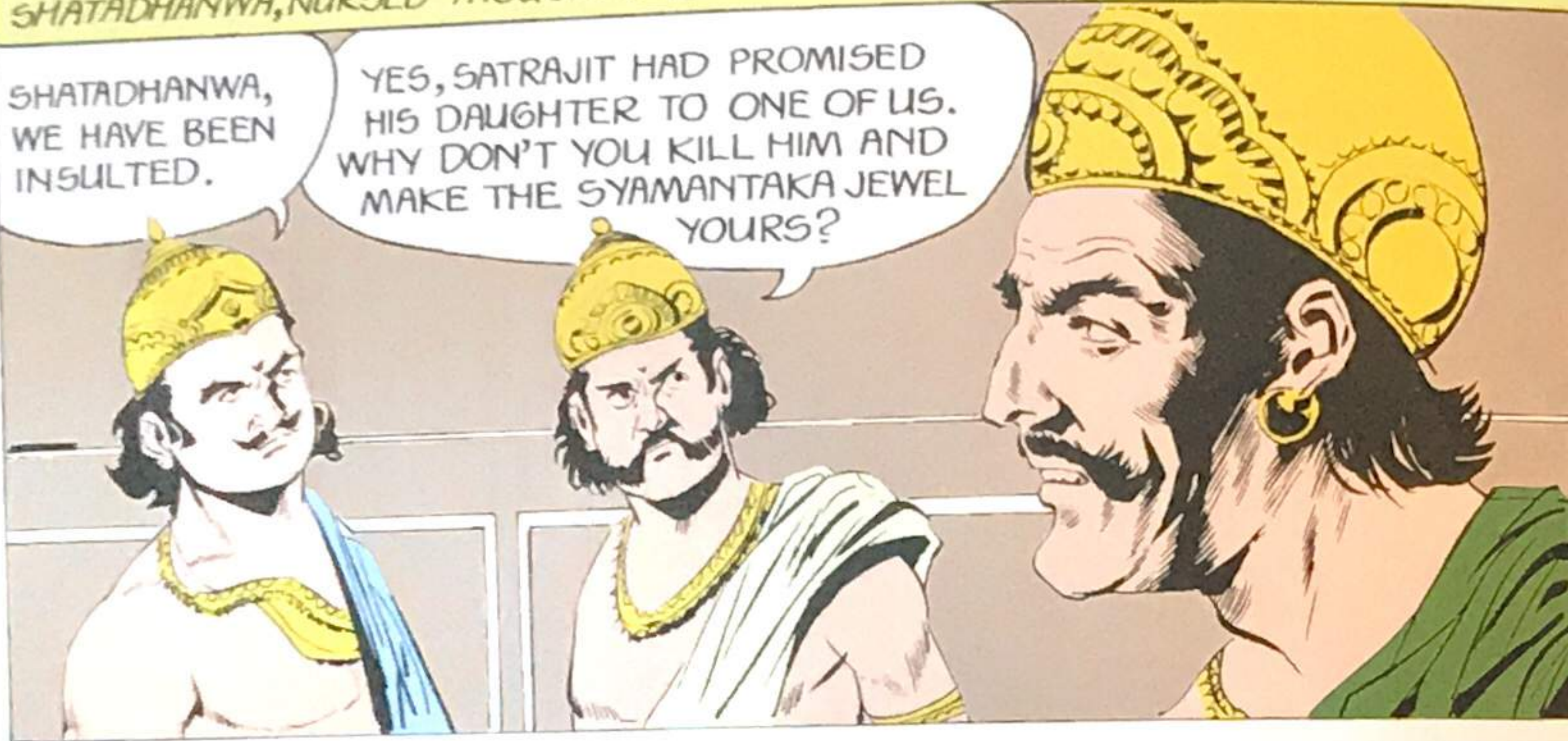
I WILL MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER WITH PLEASURE. THE GEM IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS. KEEP IT. YOU MAY HOWEVER GIVE ME THE GOLD IT YIELDS.



MEANWHILE, SATYABHAMA'S DISAPPOINTED SUITORS, AKRURA, KRITAVARMA AND SHATADHANWA, NURSED THOUGHTS OF REVENGE.

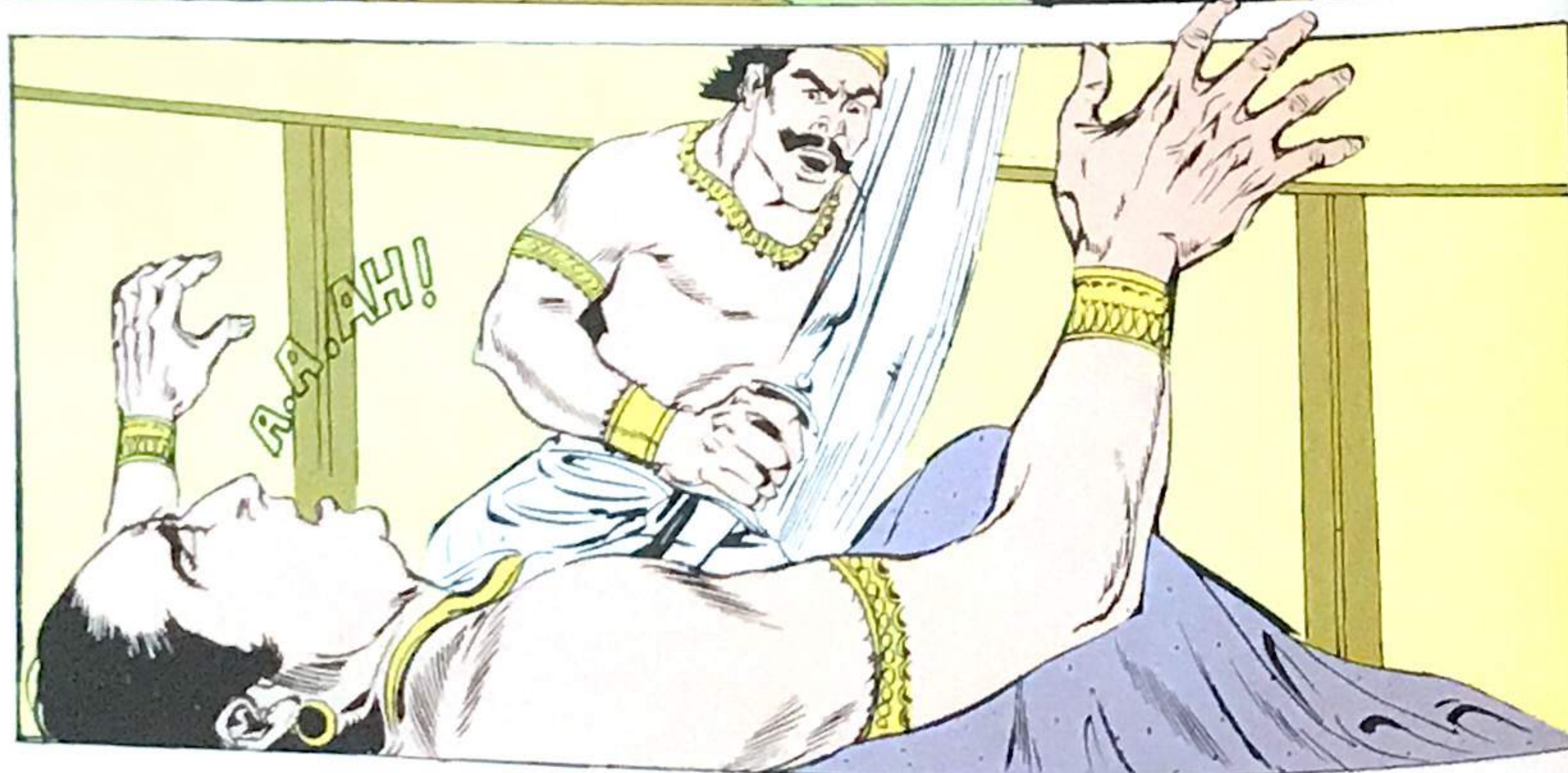
SHATADHANWA, WE HAVE BEEN INSULTED.

YES, SATRAJIT HAD PROMISED HIS DAUGHTER TO ONE OF US. WHY DON'T YOU KILL HIM AND MAKE THE SYAMANTAKA JEWEL YOURS?

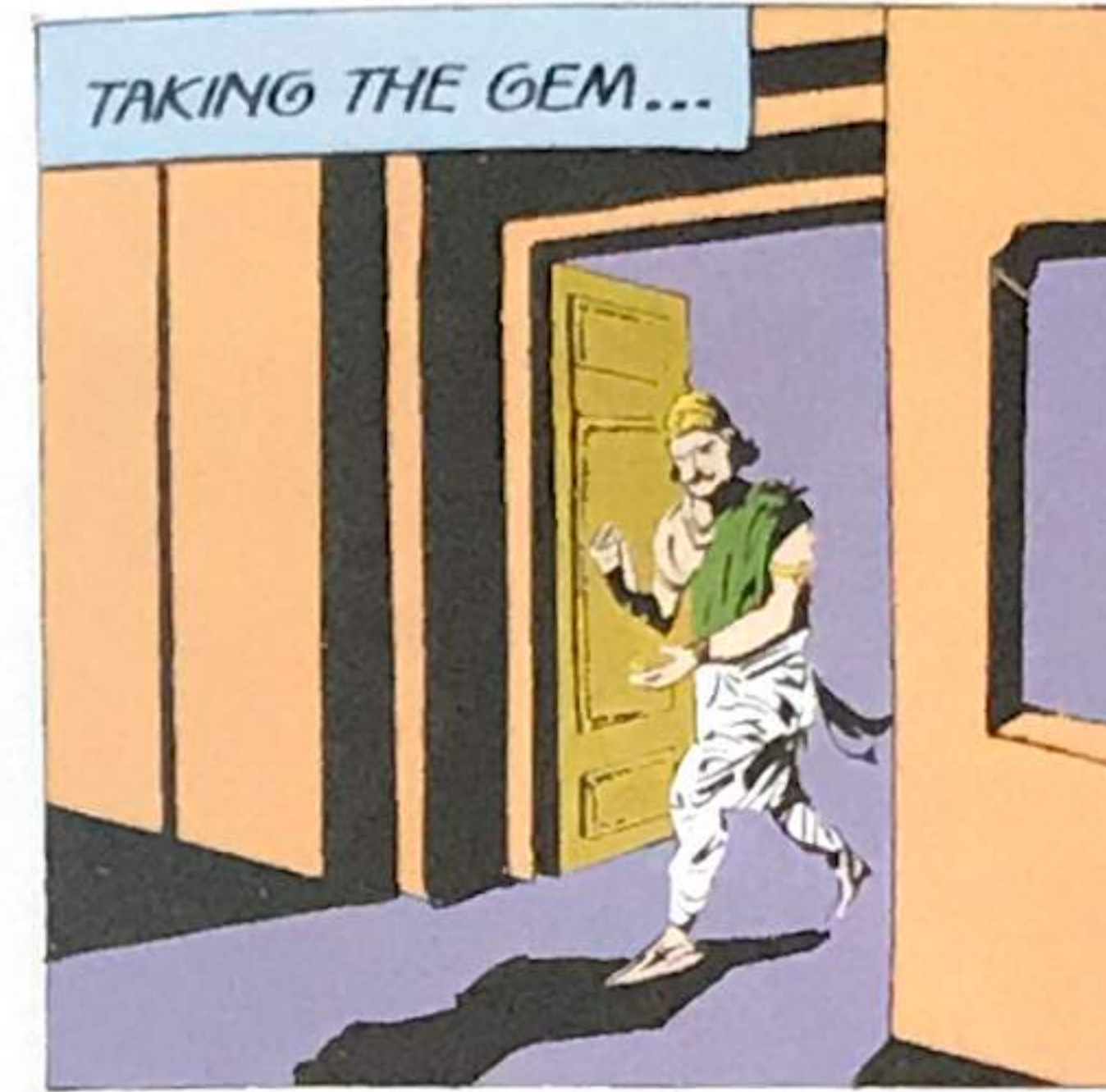


EAGER TO POSSESS THE GEM, THE EVIL SHATADHANWA DECIDED TO KILL SATRAJIT.

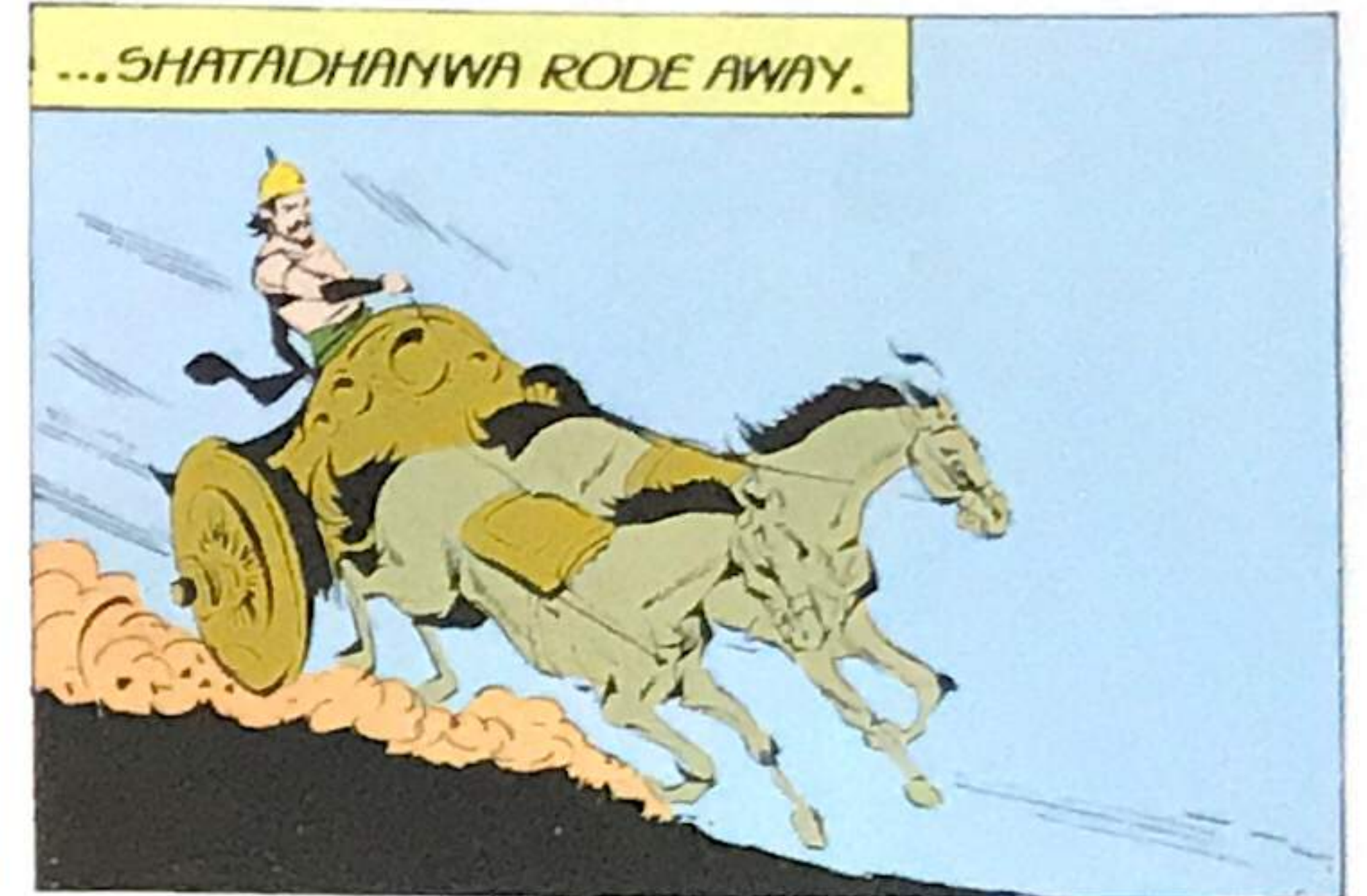
THE JEWEL WILL SOON BE MINE.



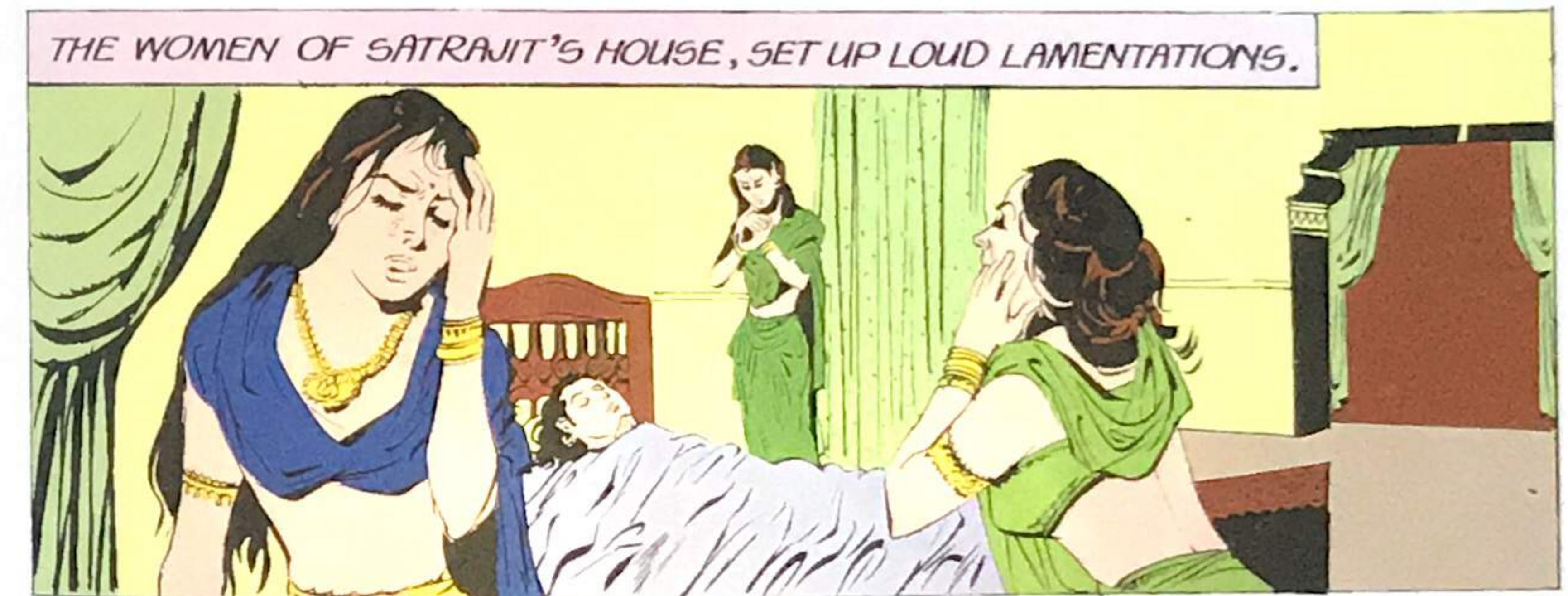
TAKING THE GEM...



...SHATADHANWA RODE AWAY.

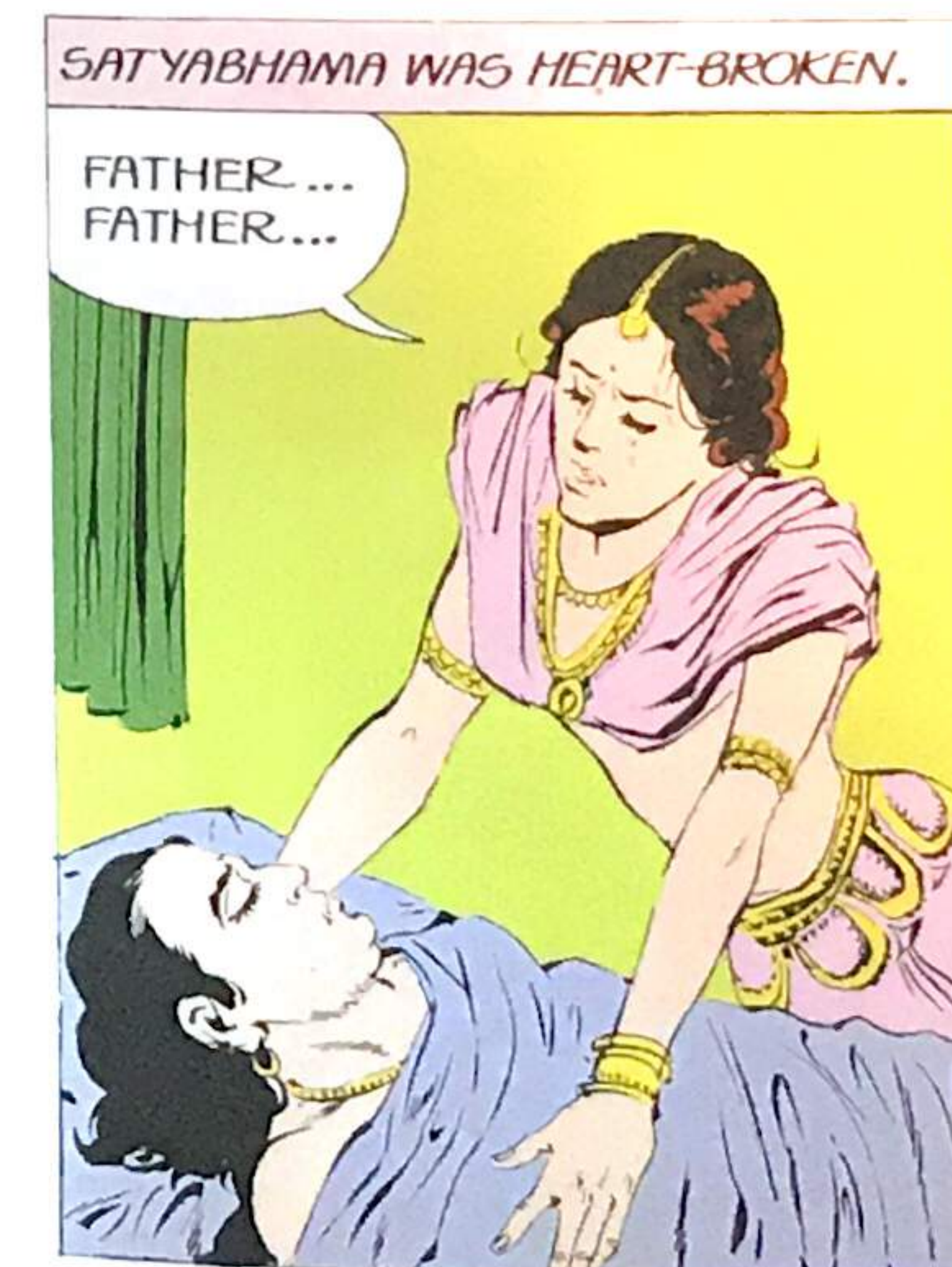


THE WOMEN OF SATRAJIT'S HOUSE, SET UP LOUD LAMENTATIONS.



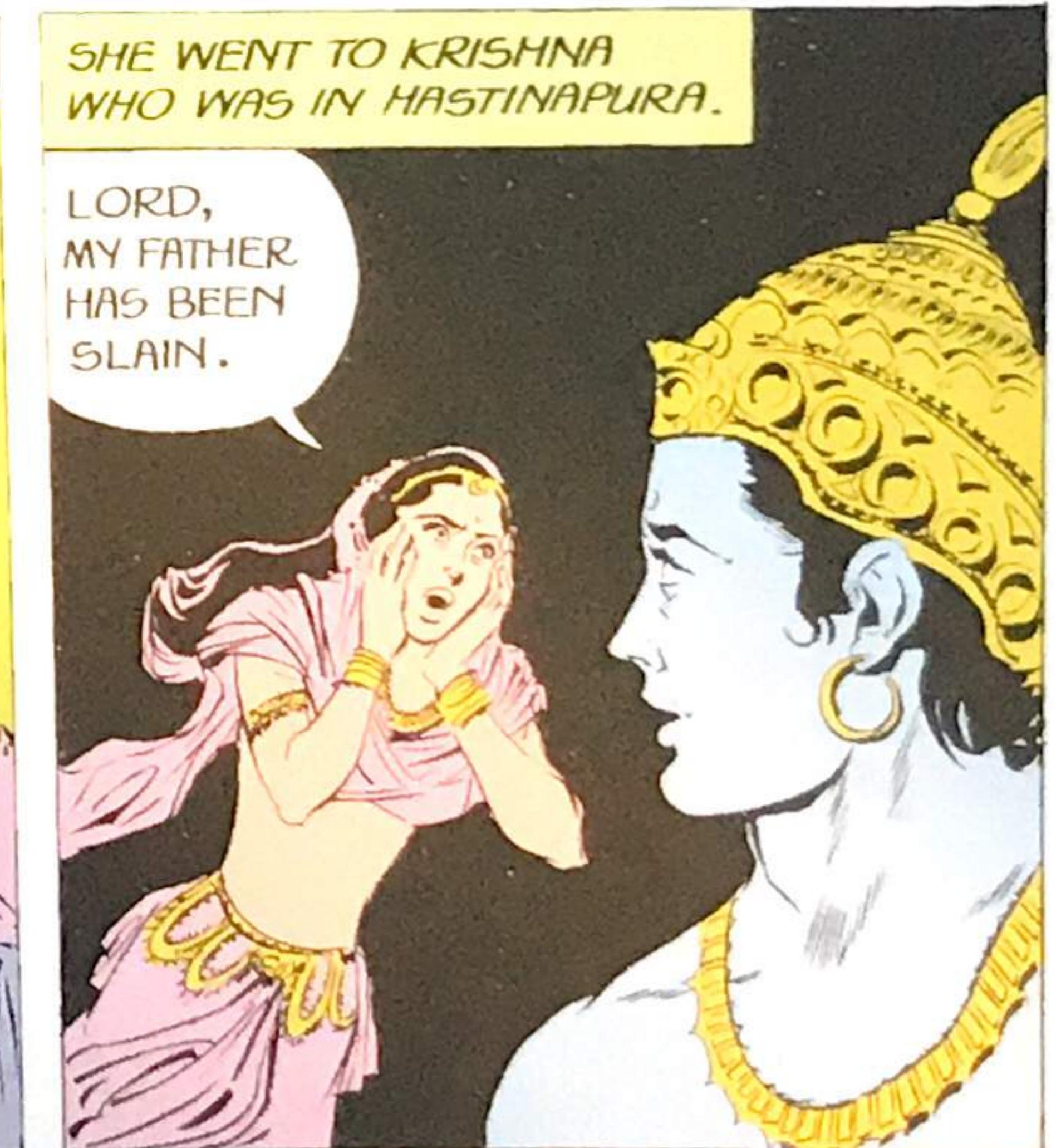
SATYABHAMA WAS HEART-BROKEN.

FATHER... FATHER...



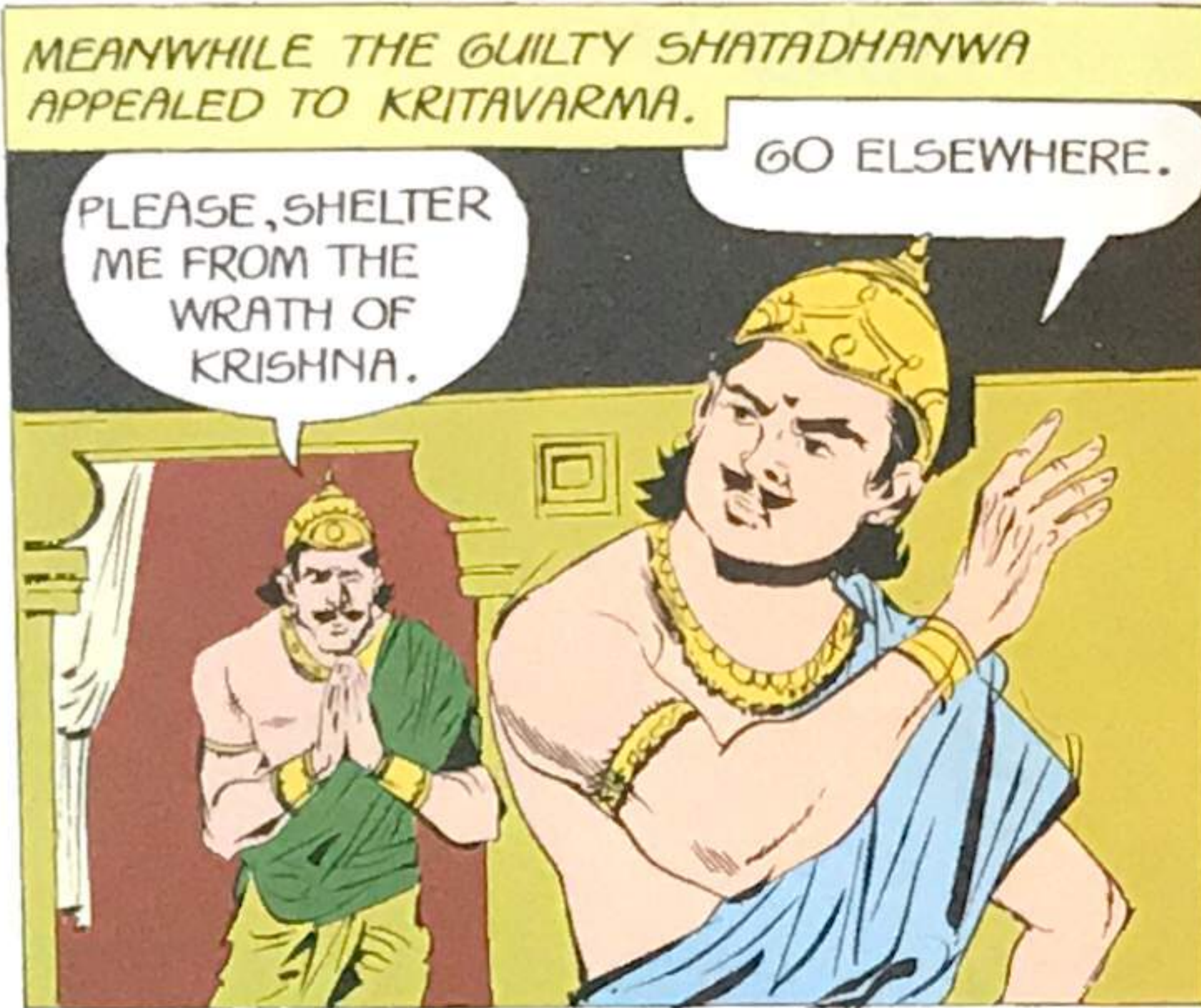
SHE WENT TO KRISHNA WHO WAS IN HASTINAPURA.

LORD, MY FATHER HAS BEEN SLAIN.





YOU MUST BE BRAVE.

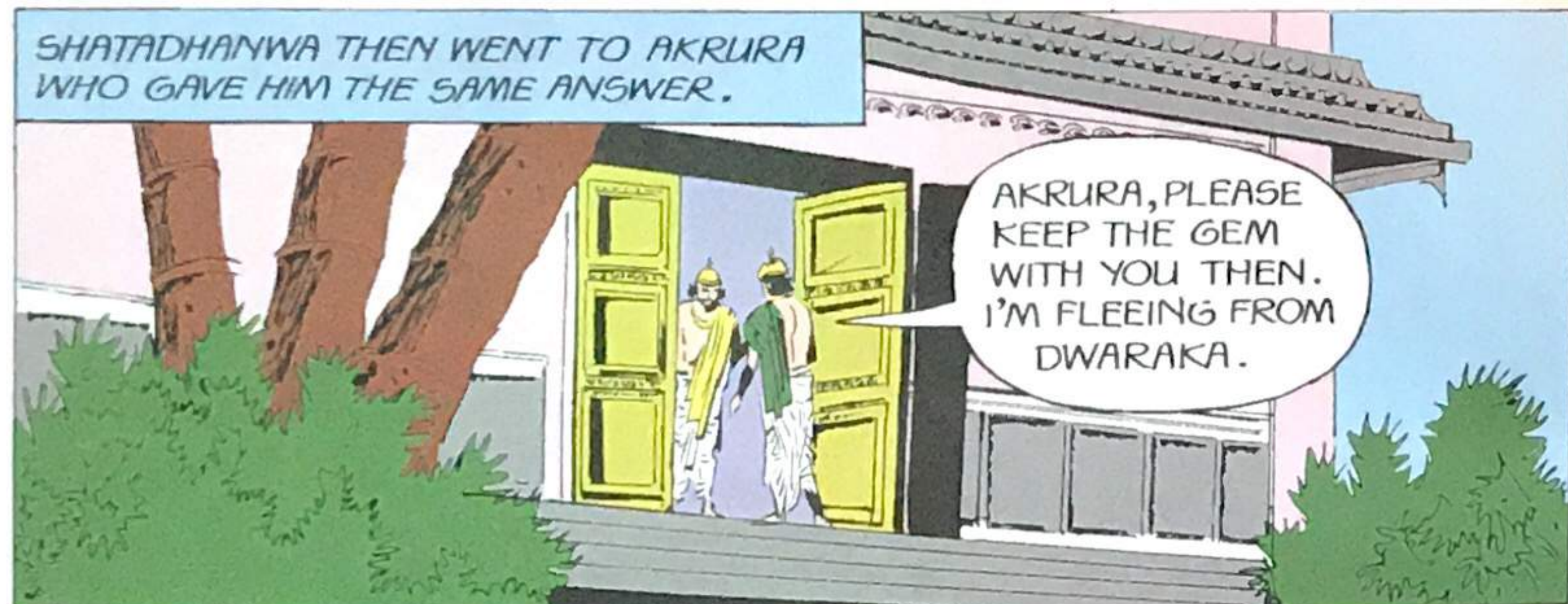


MEANWHILE THE GUILTY SHATADHANWA APPEALED TO KRISHNA.

GO ELSEWHERE.

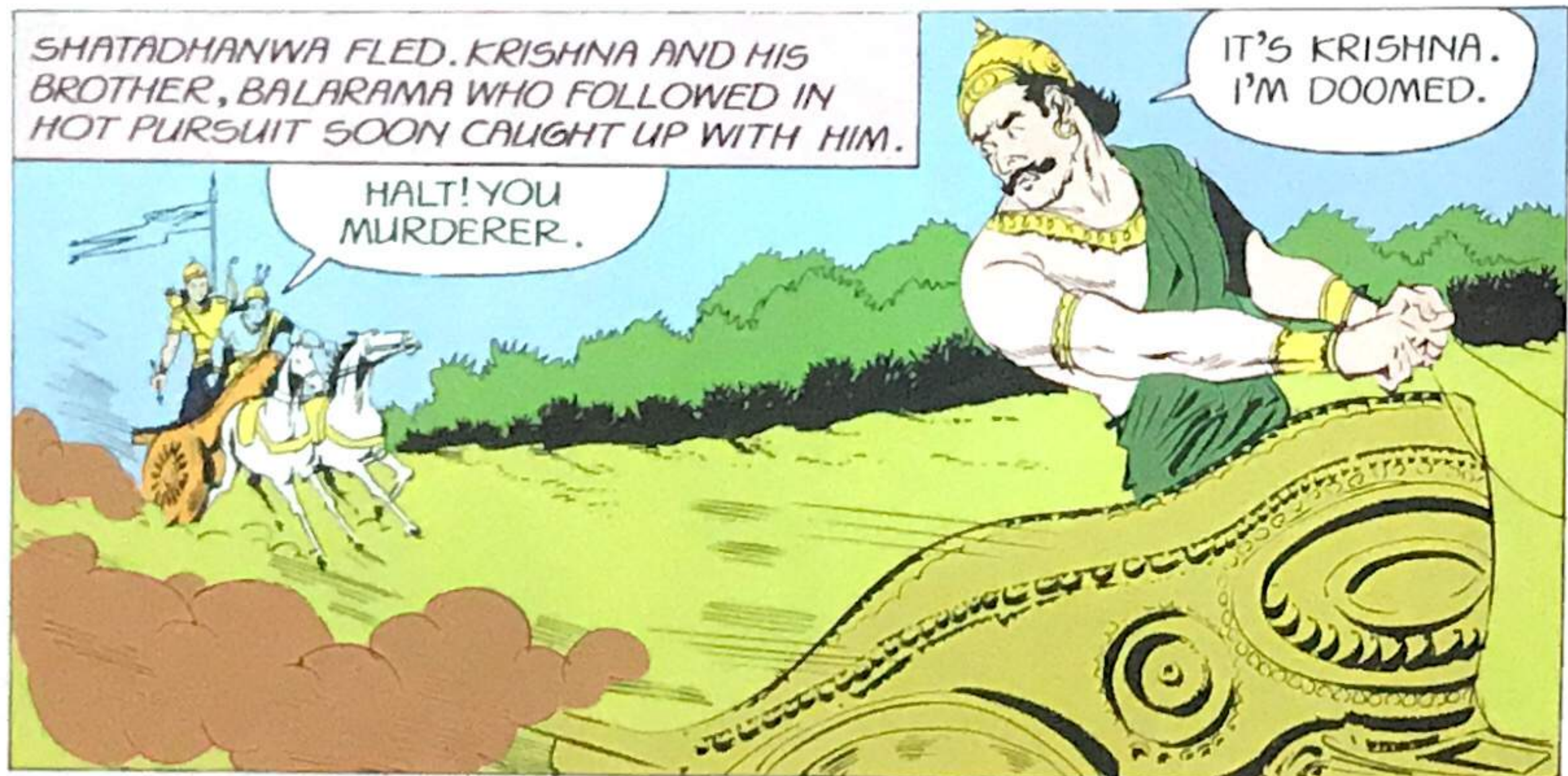
PLEASE, SHELTER ME FROM THE WRATH OF KRISHNA.

SHATADHANWA THEN WENT TO AKRURA WHO GAVE HIM THE SAME ANSWER.



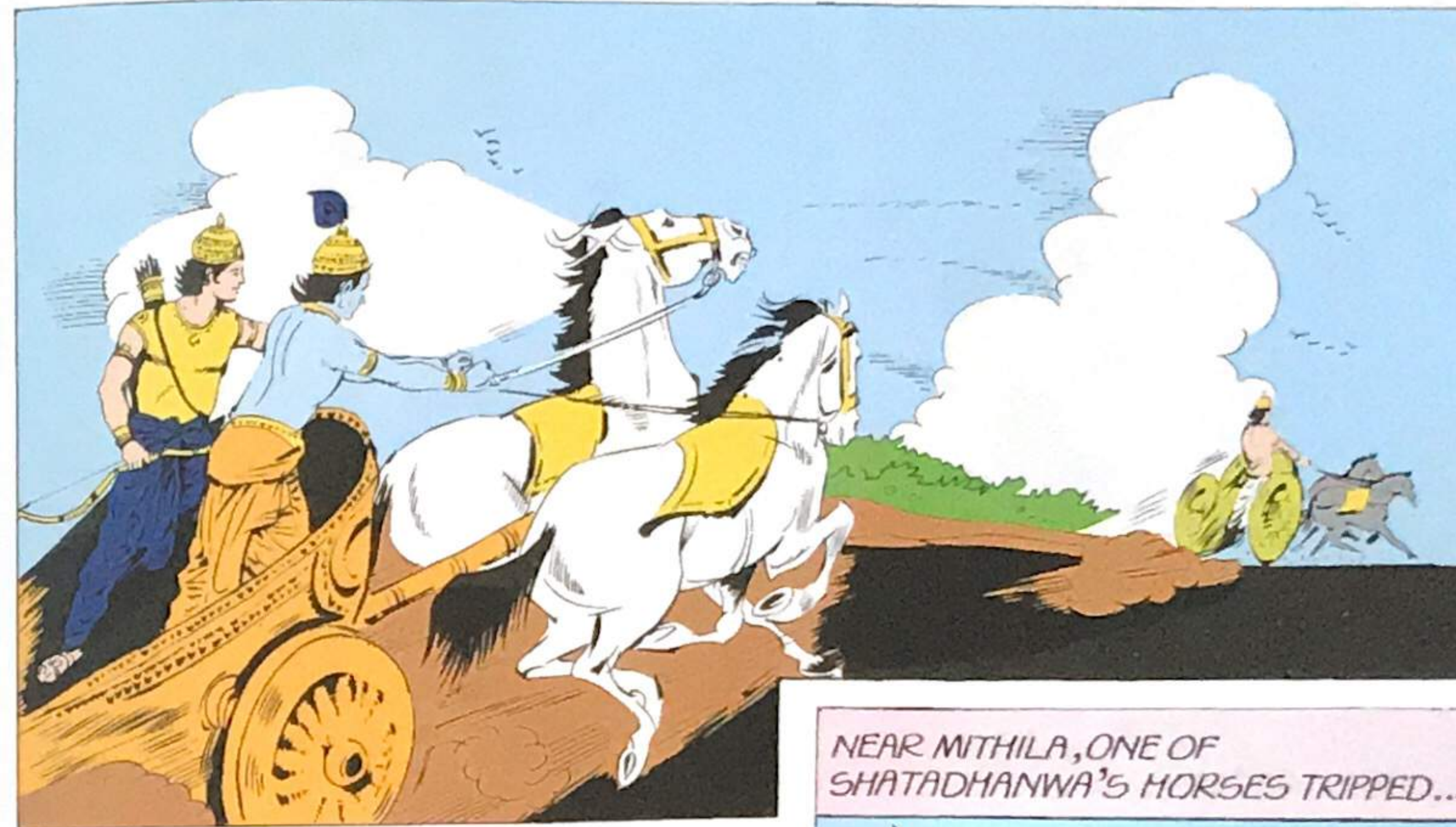
AKRURA, PLEASE KEEP THE GEM WITH YOU THEN. I'M FLEEING FROM DWARAKA.

SHATADHANWA FLED. KRISHNA AND HIS BROTHER, BALARAMA WHO FOLLOWED IN HOT PURSUIT SOON CAUGHT UP WITH HIM.

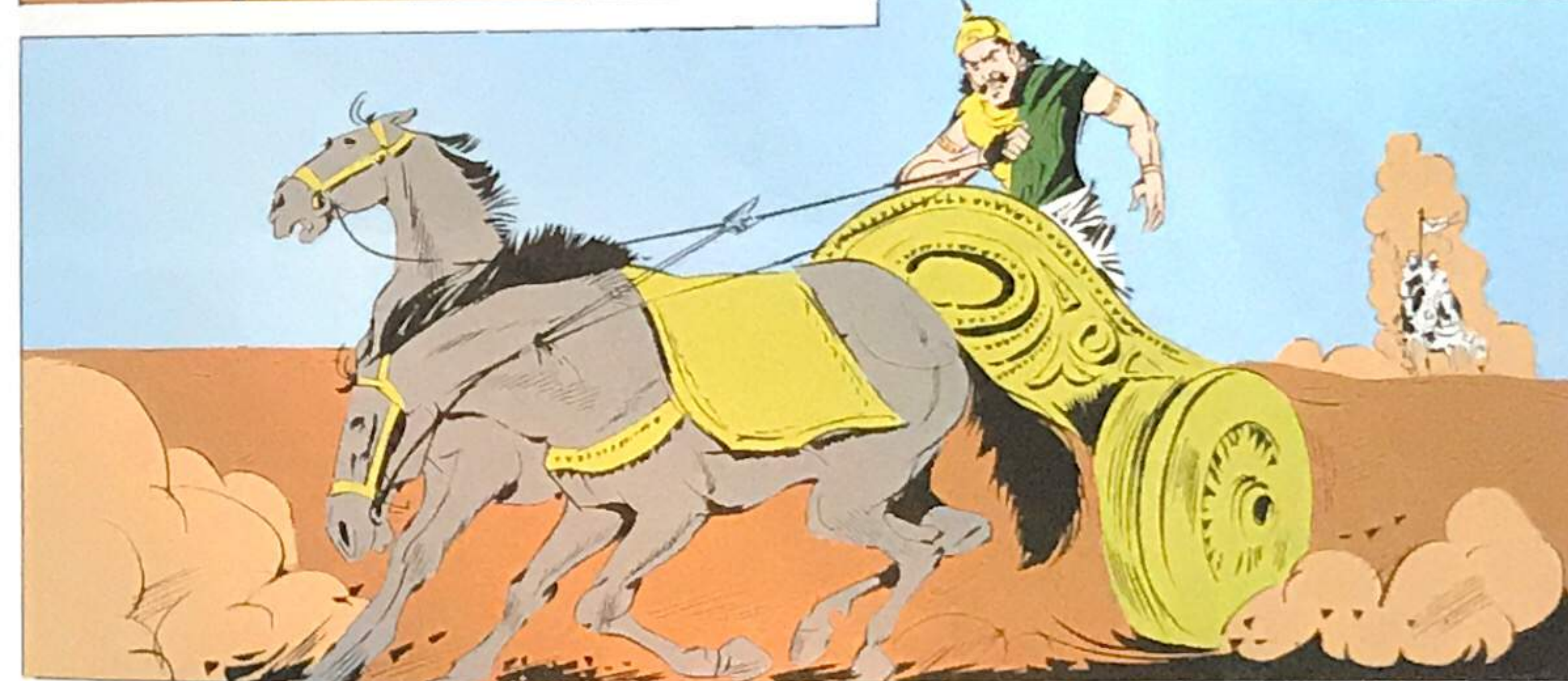


HALT! YOU MURDERER.

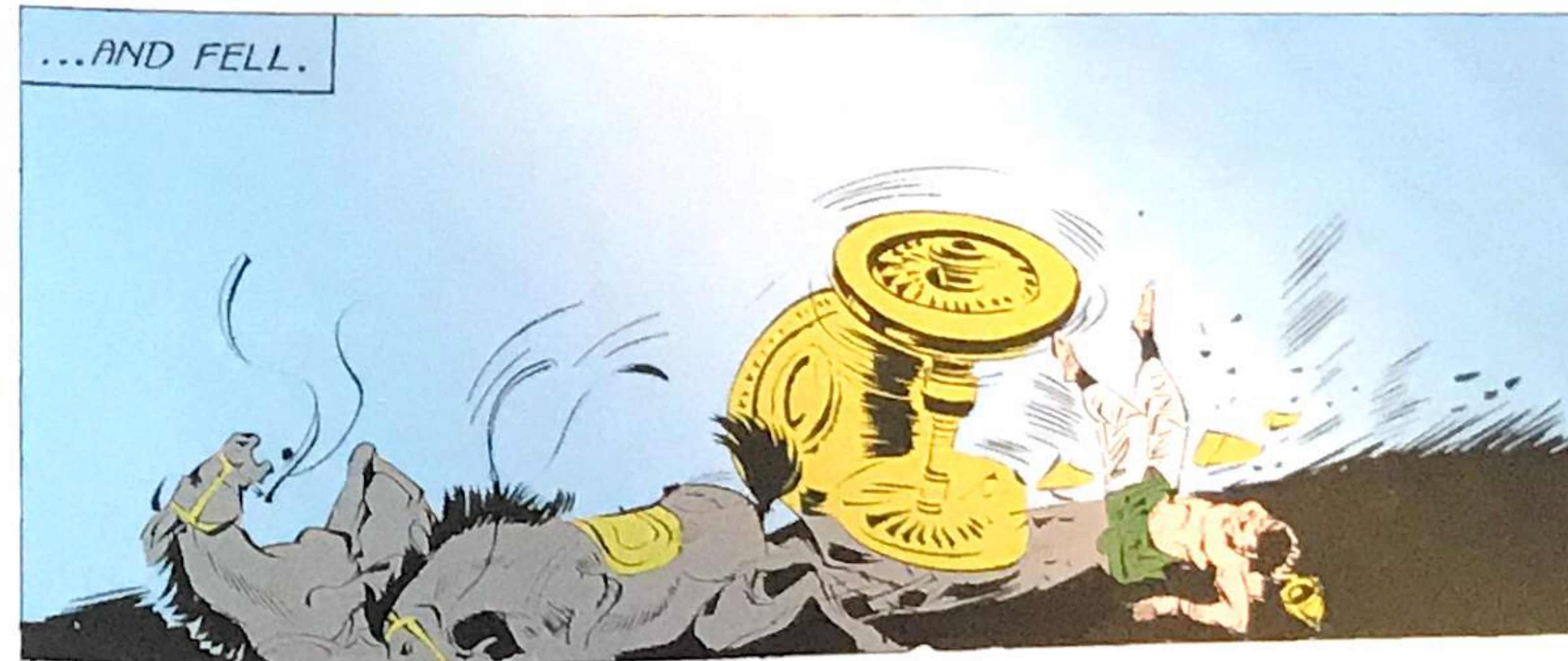
IT'S KRISHNA. I'M DOOMED.



NEAR MITHILA, ONE OF SHATADHANWA'S HORSES TRIPPED...



...AND FELL.





SHATADHANWA FELL DEAD.



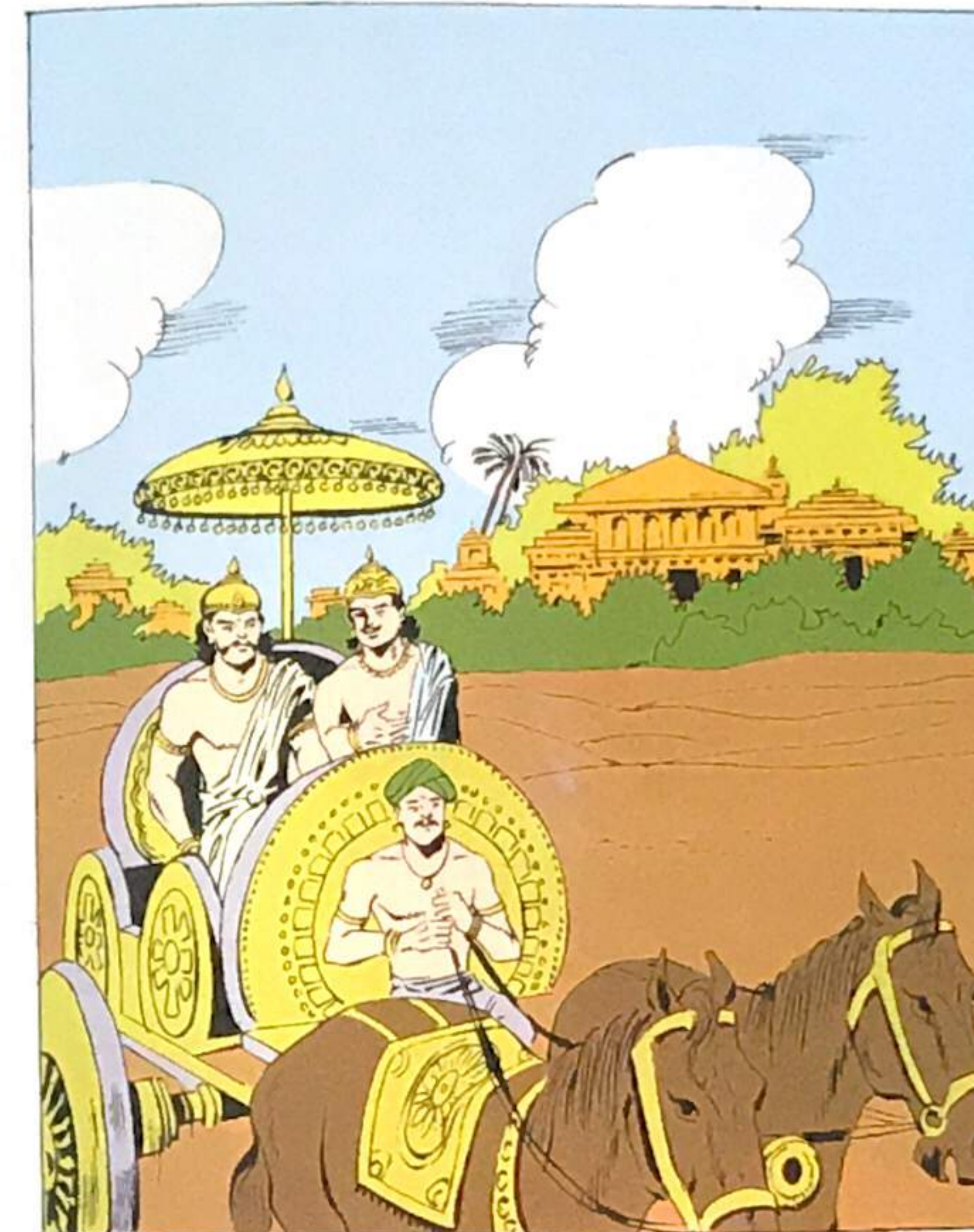
HE DOES NOT HAVE THE JEWEL. HE MUST HAVE GIVEN IT TO AKRURA.



WHEN KRITAVARMA LEARNT OF SHATADHANWA'S FATE -

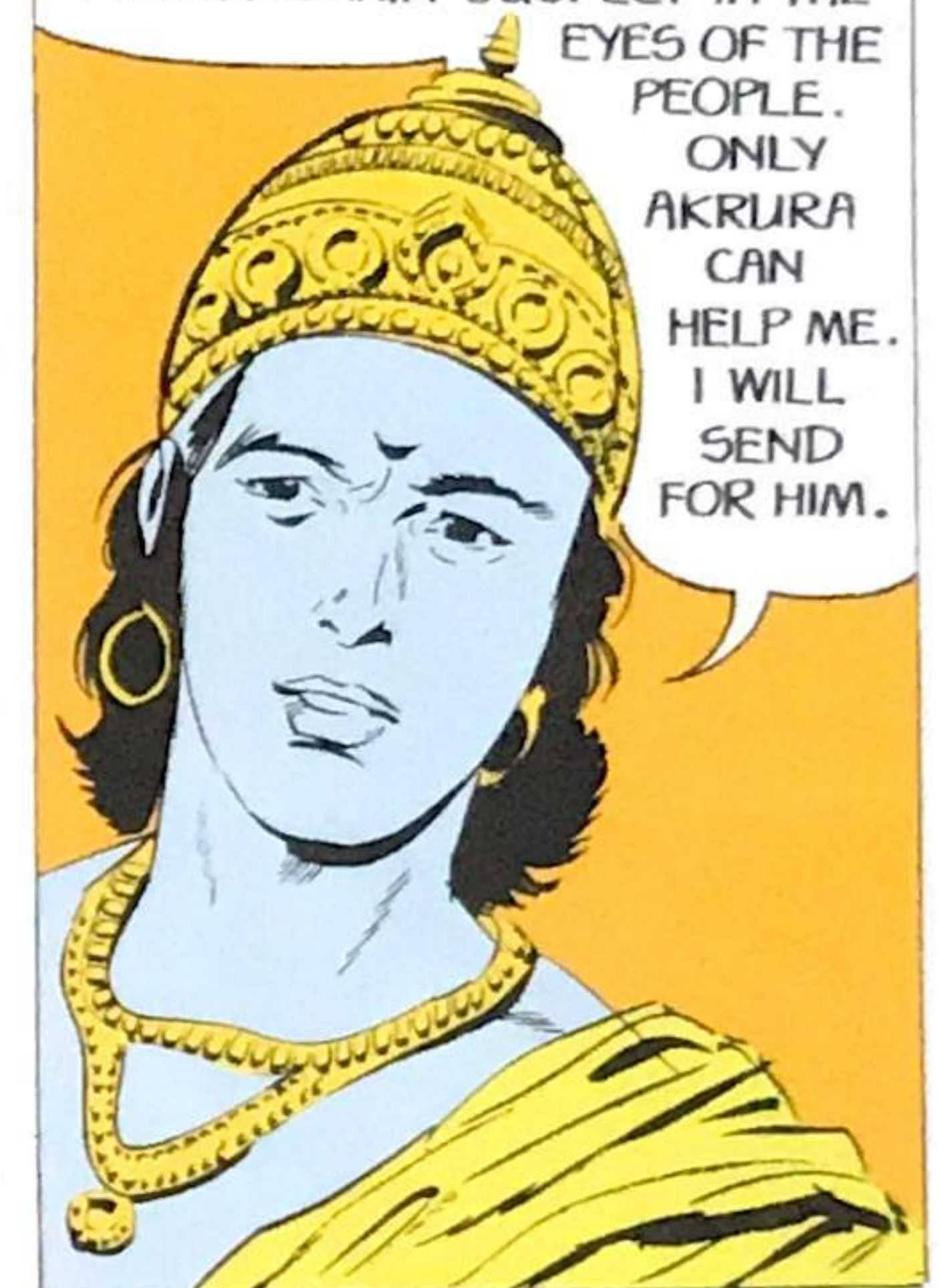
KRISHNA HAS KILLED SHATADHANWA, I HEAR.

HE WILL COME HERE NEXT. LET US FLEE BEFORE HE GETS HERE.



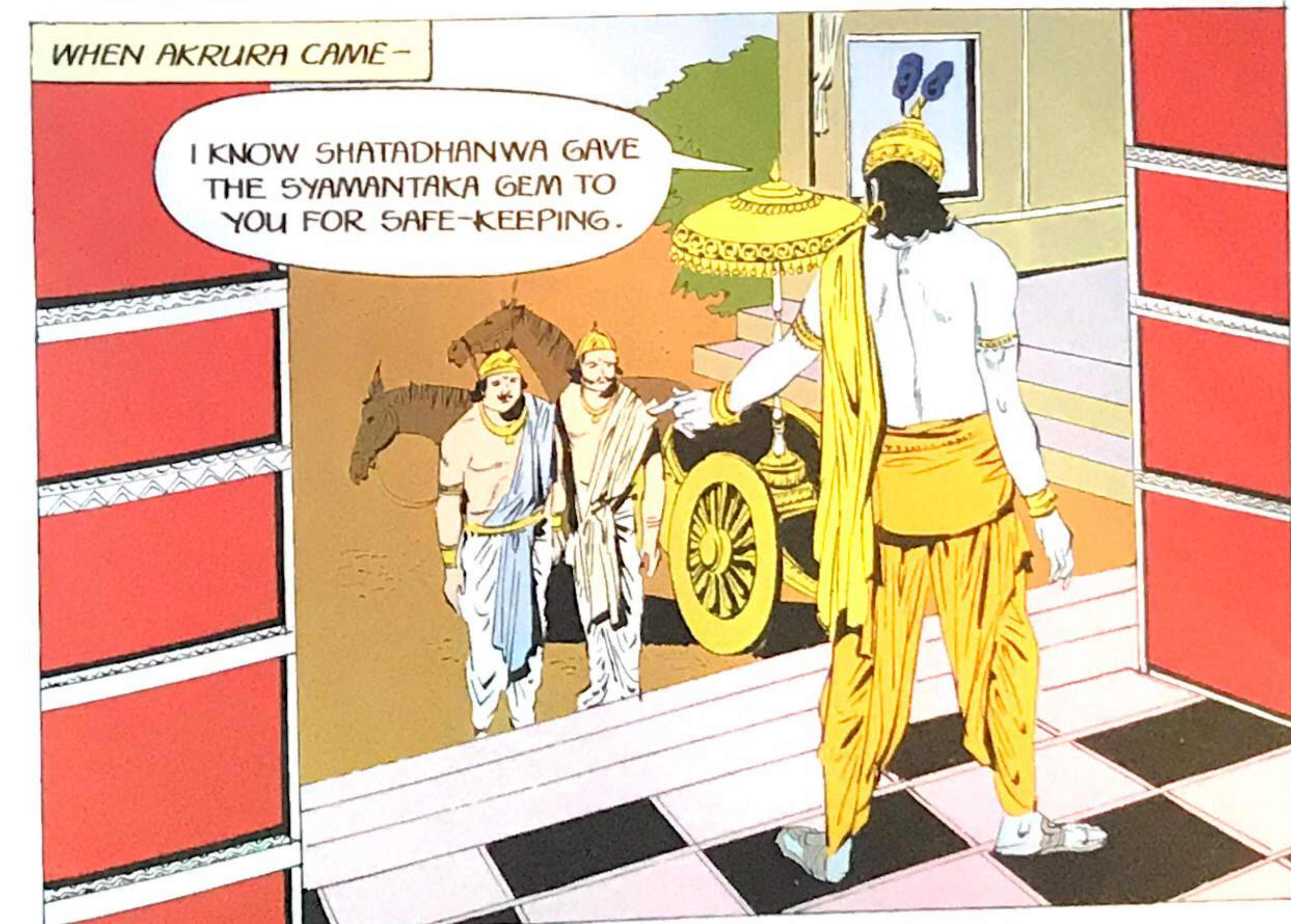
A FEW DAYS LATER AT DWARAKA -

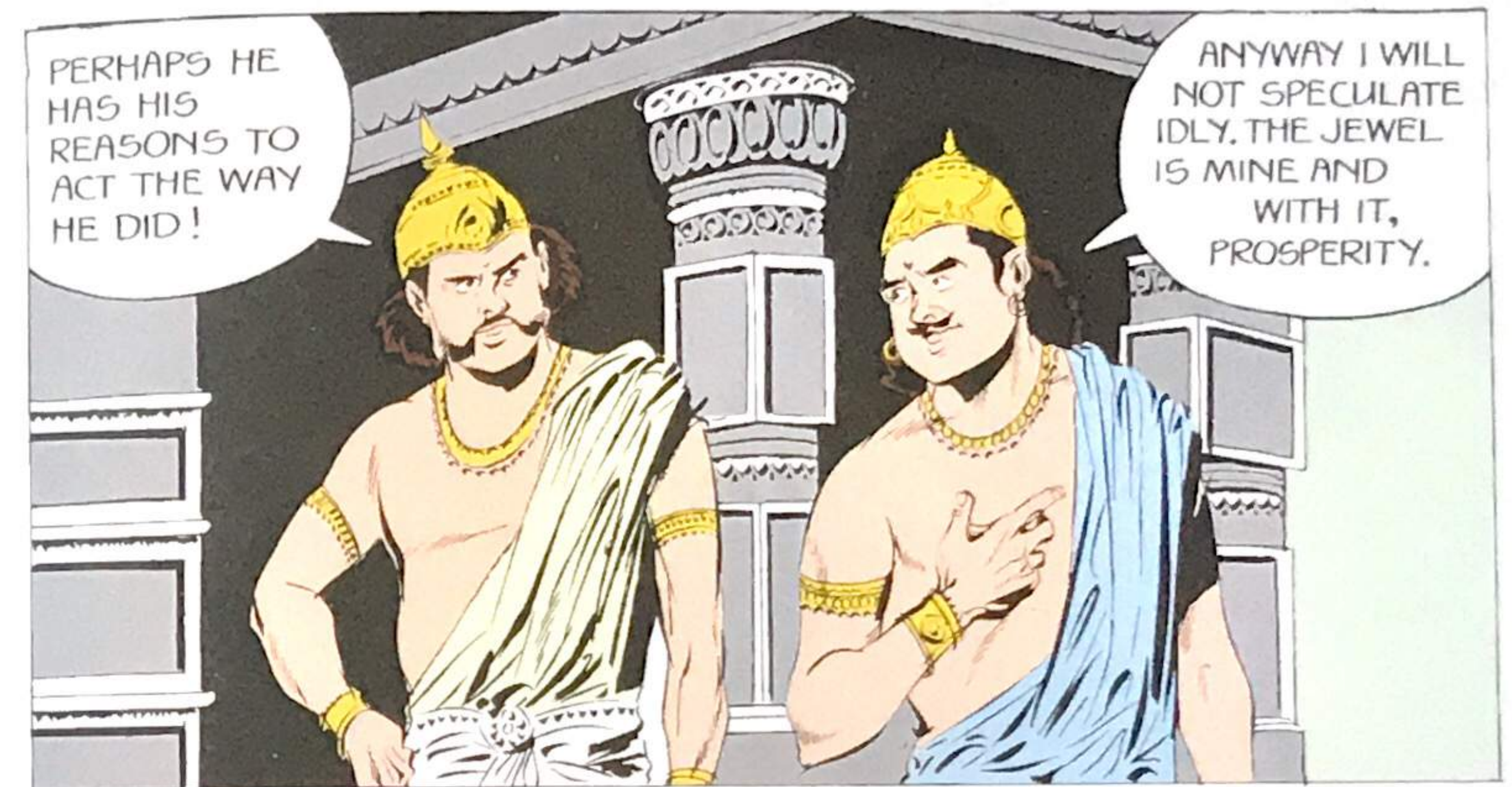
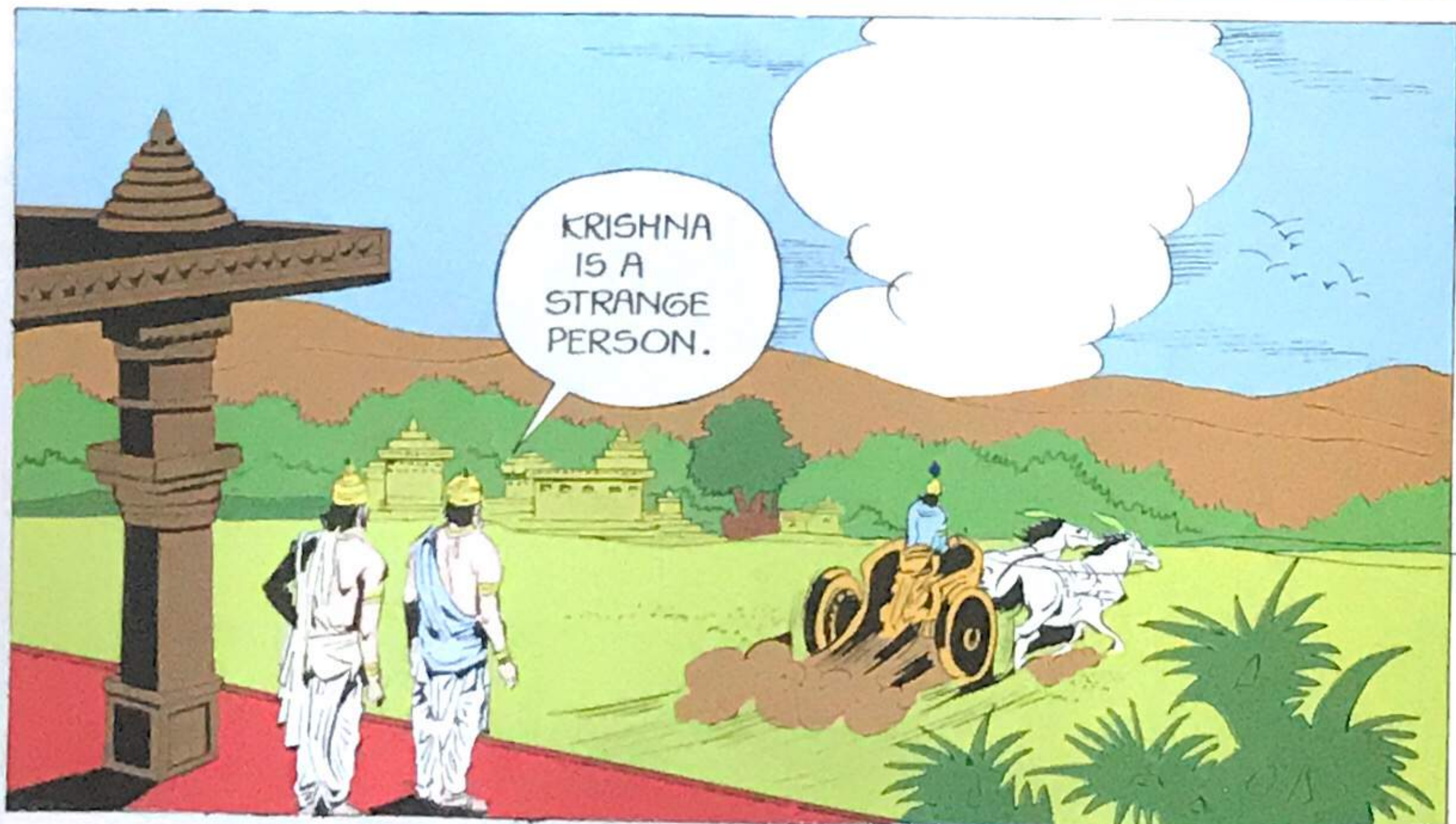
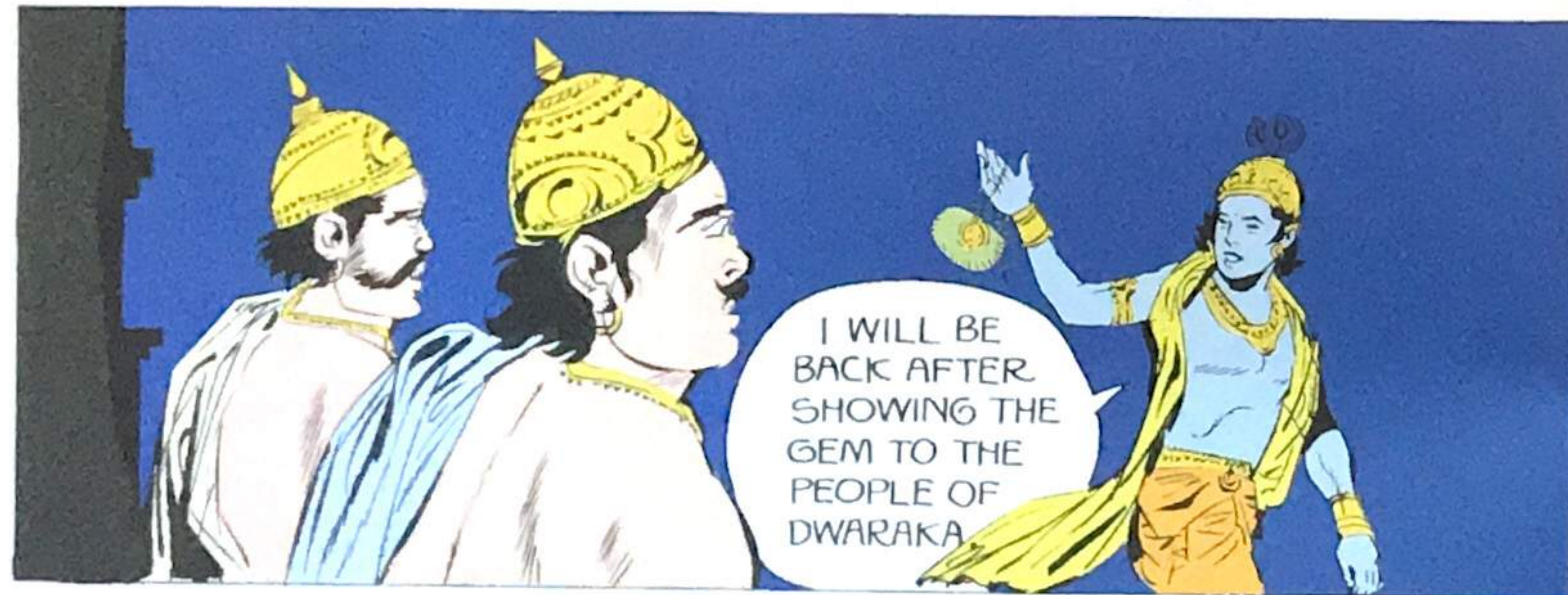
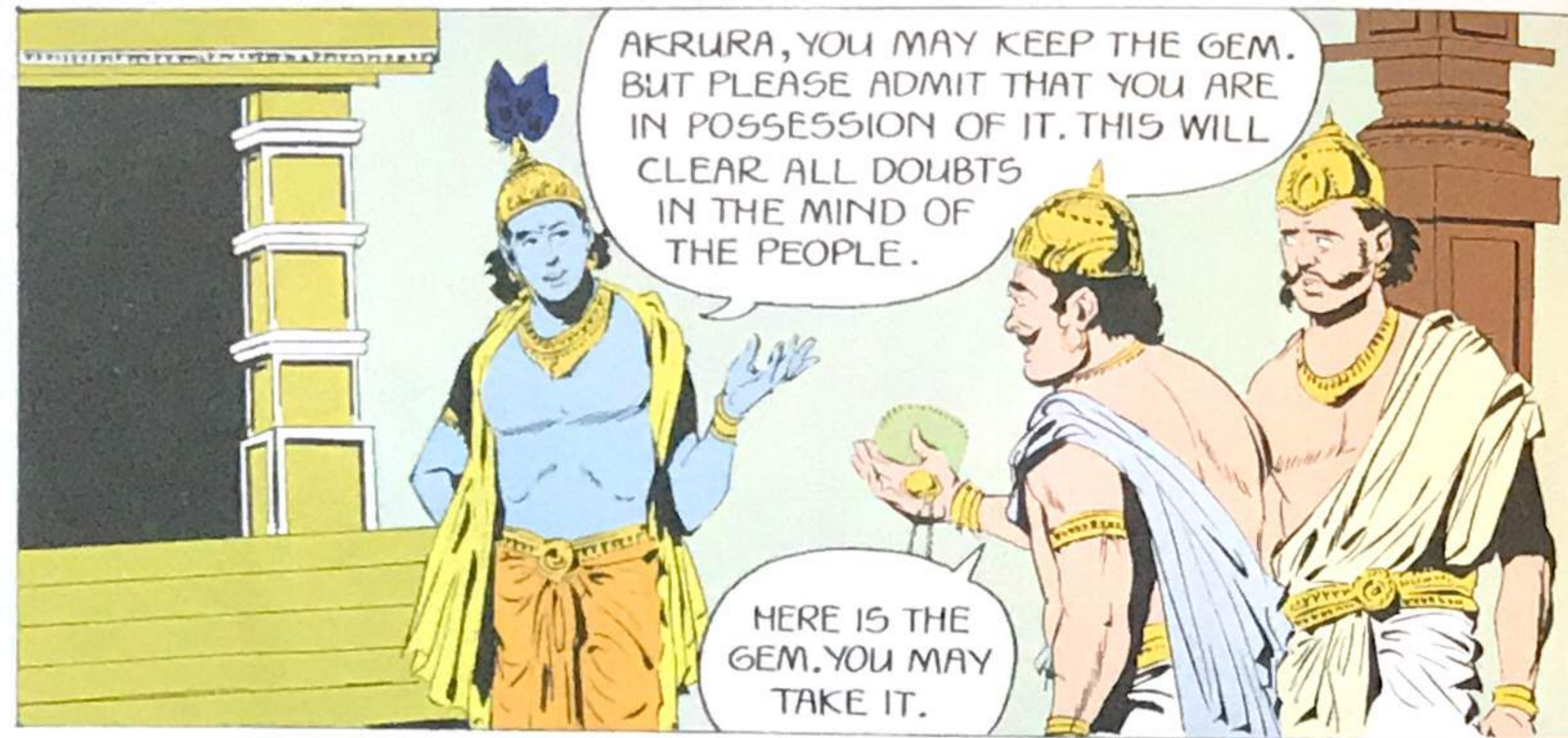
UNLESS THE GEM IS FOUND, I WILL REMAIN SUSPECT IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE. ONLY AKRURA CAN HELP ME. I WILL SEND FOR HIM.



WHEN AKRURA CAME -

I KNOW SHATADHANWA GAVE THE SYAMANTAKA GEM TO YOU FOR SAFE-KEEPING.





HAVING SET THE MINDS OF THE CITIZENS AT REST KRISHNA TOO WAS ABLE TO RELAX IN THE COMPANY OF HIS MANY WIVES.

